■ 2bU / C1 Hoops spring eternal

■ Business / B1 8-month budget gap on target at P111.1B

■ World / A10 Kerry blasts Iraq invasion as 'historic' failure

■ Metro / A23 Bus route scheme revived to ease Edsa traffic

■ Entertainment / A31 Mayors should run filmfest, says Atienza

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LANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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website: www.inq7.net

There's hope for Jhelyn, other cerebral palsy patients

Today is the last day of the first Cerebral Palsy Awareness and Protection Week.—Ed.

By Blanche S. Rivera

FOR FOUR years Cherry Florentino took her daughter Jhelyn for therapy at the Philippine Cerebral Palsy Inc. (PCPI) center in Makati City. But mother and daughter had to stop the

THERE'S/ A21

JOAN BONDOC

TATTERED GLORY
Is this any way to treat the symbol of national pride and dignity? A disintegrating image of the "strong republic" flaps in the wind at the foot of the C5 flyover. Behold it and weep.

Erap on Revilla: Oh no, why him?

But Palace defends PEA appointment

**By Armand N. Nocum
Norman Bordadora
and Juliet Labog-Javellana**

ASYONG Salonga on Nardong Putik's being named the new reclamation czar: "*Susmaryosep!*"

"*Wala na bang makuhang iba* (Was there no one else they could tap for the job)?" asked ousted President Joseph Estrada, who played Asyong Salonga, a Tondo toughie, in a movie.

Estrada was reacting to President Macapagal-Arroyo's appointment of former Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr. as chair of the board of directors of the Public Estates Authority (PEA), the agency mired in several scandals, including the PEA-Amari controversy and the overpriced President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard.

Revilla himself is a former movie actor known for his role as Nardong Putik, an *agimat* (amulet)-wielding hoodlum from Cavite.

Told that Revilla may have the qualifications for the PEA post due to his long years as head of the Senate public works committee, Estrada, speaking by phone from his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, where he is detained while standing trial on plunder charges, said even that could not provide good training for a PEA chair.

"*Saan ba magaling yun* (What is he good at)?" the former President said of Revilla, who had supported him during the Senate impeachment trial, but whose son Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., now a senator, supported then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo during Edsa II which led to Estrada's ouster.

The elder Revilla later threw

ERAP/ A21

Garcia, sis under fire over ₱5M in advances

By Cynthia D. Balana

WINSTON Garcia, president and general manager of the Government Service and Insurance System (GSIS), and his sister who served as his assistant incurred P5.25 million in unliquidated cash advances in 10 months alone in 2001, according to a member of the House of Representatives.

Rep. Rolex Suplico (LDP, Iloilo) yesterday sought a congressional investigation not only of Garcia's unliquidated advances but also of the fat salaries of GSIS executives.

"Garcia was receiving P356,979 a month while his sister, Carolyn Garcia-Empemano, whom he employed as his senior assistant, was getting P98,767 a month in basic play plus P31,101.64 in allowances," Suplico said.

"This brother and sister act made GSIS their private enclave. Like her brother, Carolyn enjoys

GARCIA/ A8

Lawyers up in arms over high court fees

**By Philip C. Tubeza
and Luige del Puerto**

WARNING that litigants may be forced to take the law into their own hands, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines yesterday asked the Supreme Court to nullify the law that led to the excessive hike in court fees, some of which went up by as much as 4,900 percent.

In a petition for certiorari and prohibition, the IBP asked the high court to declare as unconstitutional Republic Act No. 9227, the law giving judges and justices special allowances which are to be sourced from the increased court fees.

It asked the SC to immediately issue a temporary restraining order to stop all of the increases in court docket fees and set the case for oral arguments.

LAWYERS/ A21

NEVER AGAIN to ANOTHER DICTATORSHIP'
SEPTEMBER 21 COMM

DISPLAYING their commitment, activists march under the pouring rain along España in Manila and vow to continue their struggle... ERIK ARAZAS

32 years after, justice still eludes victims

PULIS
322
WPD

...WHILE members of the Western Police District wage a losing battle to keep dry. ERIK ARAZAS

THIRTY-TWO years may have passed since martial law was imposed, but it continues to haunt the country.

Protesters yesterday held rallies in Manila and other cities nationwide, demanding justice for martial law victims, decrying vestiges of Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship that allegedly remained, and "continuing the unfinished struggle."

Hundreds of activists belonging to militant groups Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Anakpawis and Selda marched to the Chino Roces Bridge on the road leading to Malacañang, slamming President Macapagal-Arroyo's failure to compensate the victims. They also accused her of using strong-arm tactics in tackling economic problems, and to quell protests and separatist insurgencies.

Riot police and barbed wire met the demonstrators.

32 YEARS/ A21

Ex-general widens lead over Megawati in Indon polls

JAKARTA—Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri will not concede or make a public comment until all ballots in the country's first-ever direct presidential elections are counted, a senior aide said yesterday.

Megawati met with top officials of her Indonesia Democratic Party-Struggle to discuss the tally which shows her well behind her rival, retired army general Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, by 20 percentage points with 60 percent of the vote counted.

Announcement of the official result by the election commission is not expected until Oct 5. "Before that, we will not issue a stance," said Pramono Anung, party deputy secretary general.

This position marks a return to Megawati's media-shy past after a brief flurry of public appearances ahead of the vote. Analysts say her aloofness during three years in power played a role in her downfall.

In contrast, Yudhoyono, once her chief security minister, has yet to declare victory, but has already held several news confer-

EX-GENERAL/ A22

IN THE KNOW

- This is the first time Indonesians directly elected their leader.
- Before, the president was chosen by members of parliament.
- 122 million voted, for an 80% turnout.
- Official election results will be known on Oct. 5.
- Monday's election was a run-off vote after Yudhoyono failed to get a majority over Megawati in the first round of elections held in July.

PDI RESEARCH
SOURCE: PDI ARCHIVES, AP

High court 'rules' vs love

By Philip C. Tubeza

DAPAT PATI
LIVE-IN BAWAL!

COMMANDMENT No. 6, Sec. A: Thou shalt not marry an employee of a rival firm.

The Supreme Court has upheld a pharmaceutical company's policy prohibiting its employees from marrying employees of a rival firm, saying that it is a valid exercise of management prerogative to

HIGH/ A8

Iraqi militants behead American

BAGHDAD—American contractor Eugene Armstrong, in an orange jumpsuit, sits blindfolded on the floor. Standing behind him are black-clad and hooded gunmen. As one of them reads a statement damning the United States and demanding the release of Iraqi women prisoners, Armstrong rocks back and forth. Then one of his captors grabs him and, as he screams, chops off his head with a knife.

This video footage was released by militants who said they would kill another American and a Briton yesterday unless their demands were met. The group is led by Washington's acknowledged "top foe" in Iraq.

A senior defense official in Washington said Armstrong's body was found by Iraqi police near a mosque in the city. "The body is now in US custody," the official said.

Armstrong was seized in Baghdad on Thursday along with fellow American Jack Hensley and Briton Kenneth Bigley.

United States President George W. Bush, in comments made before the release of the video on an Islamist website on Monday, said the United States would "stay on the offensive."

"They will behead people in order to shake our will," Bush told a campaign rally. "[They] are ideologues of hatred. You cannot negotiate with [them]."

Negotiations to save the two remaining hostages are made even more unlikely by the very nature of the demands by the Tawhid and Jihad group led by al-Qaida ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

In the video of Armstrong's killing, the group said it would behead Hensley and Bigley with-

IRAQI/ A22

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/22/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONT PAGE

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GOCC debts reach ₱1.1 trillion

By Cynthia D. Balana

FINANCE officials yesterday placed at P1.093 trillion the partial contingent debts of the national government, most of which were incurred by 26 of the 76 government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs).

The total guranteed and relent loans of the National Power Corporation (Napocor) alone stood at $8.33 billion (roughly P466.5 billion) as of Dec. 31 last year.

Contingent liabilities refer to the legal obligation of the government to make payments on projects it had supplied with credit guarantee should the contractor default or certain events, such as currency fluctuation, occur.

To lure private investors to build infrastructure projects, for example, government has made it a point to assume potential risks.

In a letter to Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LP, Camarines Sur), chair of the House appropriations committee, Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong clarified that the department's 8-page listing of government contingent liabilities contained "preliminary figures" as of December 2003.

Amatong was forced to submit even a partial list of contingent liabilities after the committee threatened to suspend the budget hearing indefinitely until the finance department submitted a list of the actual contingent debt stock.

Amatong's letter, which was distributed during the budget hearing, showed that nearly half of the government guaranteed liabilities were almost certain to become actual national government debt. Amatong was also present in the hearing.

Could be higher

She said the figures could still go higher if guarantee covers on independent power producers (IPPs) and potential government exposure on state pension funds would be included.

Andaya, however, insisted that the floor price of contingent debt stock could reach up to P2.3 trillion at the very least considering that the list was incomplete.

According to him, pegging the real value of the contingent debt was like "looking for a needle in a haystack."

There was no main database on the actual total figures because the records were scattered in the different departments and agencies of the government involved, he said.

"What we have here are several ticking debt bombs. But we don't know how they are and the schedule of their explosion," Andaya said.

"How can we brace for the fiscal shock caused by contingent debt when we can't forecast when the Big Bang would happen?" he asked.

Andaya admitted that his committee was clueless as to how much the actual contingent debt stock was.

In Amatong's report to the committee, loans of GOCCs and government financial institutions (GFIs) that were guaranteed by the government hit P723.8 billion while those extended to "guarantee institutions" reached P51.5 billion.

On the other hand, build-operate-transfer projects by the private sector added P318.7 billion to the contingent debt stock.

'Big ticket' items

Andaya, however, insisted that the count did not include "big-ticket items" such as IPP obligations, other BOT projects, and actuarial deficit of the Government Service and Insurance System and the Social Security System, which the government would have to pick up should their funds dry up.

IPP obligations alone were expected to hit $10.91 billion or P610.9 billion at the end of the year, on a P56 to the dollar exchange rate.

On a per-sector basis, power accounted for $9.25 billion, followed by transportation with $1,027 billion, water with $415.8 million, government financial institutions, $2.919 billion with social security with $192.4 million, housing with $388.2 million and food and agriculture with 4456.7 million.

In addition, 49 monitored GOCCs have an aggregate "domestic and foreign liabilities" of P2.12 trillion as gleaned from the balance sheets.

"There is no 100-percent reliable crystal ball as of the moment that would tell us this early which will end up as government obligations," Andaya said.

In forecasting contingent debt that may be assumed by the government, Andaya said what the committee had was just a "suspects' list" that was derived from BOT projects with government guarantees.

Most of these were power projects with a combined cost of P975 billion, most of which were under operation and concession.

Andaya lamented the lack of cohesive programming in the allocation of government guarantee cover for such big contingent debt.

He said the information was diffused, there was no provision for potential guarantee calls, there was no early warning system for problematic guarantees and most of all, the government seemed always to be at the losing end while private interests and profit were protected and ensured.

Andaya cited the case of the Metro Railway Transit project which saw the fixed annual rental shooting up from $72.5 milion to $123.7 million even before the first train could even make its run due to faulty projection on ridership.

SECURITY COUNCIL VAL HANDUMON

President Macapagal-Arroyo is flanked by Vice President Noli de Castro and two former presidents—Fidel Ramos and Corazon Aquino—during yesterday's meeting of the National Security Council at the Malacanang Heroes' Hall.

Speaker's House safe from 'pork revolt'

By Carlito Pablo

THE HOUSE under Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. is stable.

Rep. Ignacio Arroyo (Kampi, Negros Occidental) said so a day after congressmen were assured in a caucus Monday that they would retain the power to identify their pet projects under a modified pork barrel system.

"The so-called pork revolt, as some people called it and in which Kampi had no hand, has subsided," Arroyo said. "Whatever grumbling there was will be fading."

De Venecia announced Monday after an all-party caucus that the House was adopting line item budgeting, effectively phasing out the graft-ridden lump-sum system of identifying pork barrel projects.

Line item budgeting involves identifying each project and its cost in every legislative district, "line by line."

"That is acceptable to Kampi. The line item budget system will mean more transparency in legislative projects," Arroyo said.

Days earlier, a number of congressmen had taken to the House floor demanding to know what would happen to their Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), the euphemism for the pork barrel under which they were allotted P70 million each per year to dispense as they saw fit.

At one point, Rep. Jacinto Paras (LDP, Negros Oriental) had threatened to introduce a motion declaring all House positions vacant.

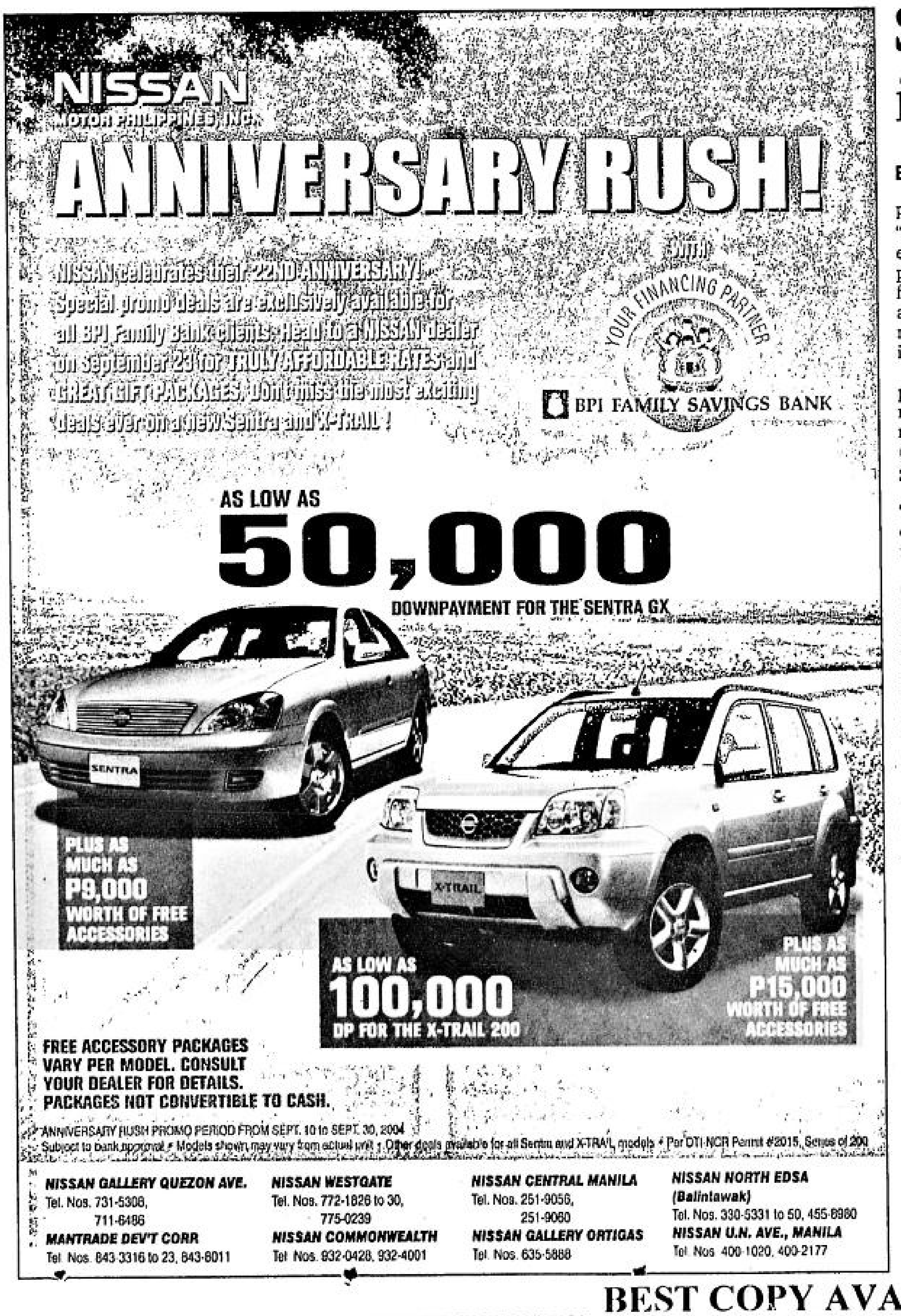
The House leadership then issued a statement saying the pork barrel would be abolished as part of austerity measures.

But De Venecia later clarified that the pork barrel would remain—only the system of doling it out from lump-sum to line item budgeting would change.

In a statement, Rep. Robert Jaworski Jr. (Lakas, Pasig City) said he hoped the "coup noises against the leadership of De Venecia will cease."

"The support shown by the 186 congressmen in the multi-party caucus should serve as a signal that the work of legislation in the House will now proceed smoothly," Jaworski said.

"We've nowhere to go if we continue squabbling with each other," he said.



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Solon says 'pain package' is best way to cut deficit

By Gil C. Cabacungan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's P166 billion "pain package" of high taxes, power rates, fuel prices and sharp cutbacks in congressional pork barrel over the next three years is the fastest and best way to stop the budget deficit and government debt from ballooning to more than double by 2010, according to a legislator and economic adviser of the President.

Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda said the pain package "would deliver the credibility shock needed to convince foreign creditors to refinance the country's maturing obligations ($4.6 billion by 2005) and secure credit upgrades within the next 12 to 18 months."

Salceda said that without the pain package, "the contractionary risks become worse as it could trigger a full-blown financial and economic crisis."

He warned that if creditors pull the plug on the Philippines' debt or at best jack up the interest—the Philippines is charged a debt premium of 497 basis points against Thailand's 97, Malaysia's 103 and Indonesia's 330—the budget deficit could explode to P500 billion and government debt to P7 trillion by 2010 from the current P197.5 billion and P3.3 trillion, respectively.

'Pain package'

The three-year pain package consists of new taxes (the sin taxes, petroleum tax and expanded value-added tax), power rate adjustment, the privatization of the National Power Corp., cuts in congressional pork barrel, freeze in internal revenue allotment, and cutbacks in the President's social fund and government employee compensation.

Critics have claimed that these measures would have the effect of constricting economic growth.

But Salceda countered that the enormous debt payments—P302 billion in interest and P385 billion in principal—are what pose the real contractionary risk to the country and not the pain package.

"Debt and deficit have a destabilizing threat more severe than that posed by the communist insurgents or Muslim separatists," he added.

Salceda said that while the reform package would inflict pain in the short term, this would be mitigated by increased private sector investments and possible credit rating upgrades that would free up massive resources for public investments.

Credit rating upgrades or downgrades by international rating agencies determine the cost of government's borrowing and the perceived risks of investing in the country by direct investors.

Salceda said that a credit upgrade within the next 12 to 18 months would generate financial savings of P102 billion or more than half of he cost of the pain package.

"The payback period is less than two years," he said, noting that the savings could be used to boost spending for infrastructure and social services.

This would in turn boost foreign direct investments as creditors would see less risk because of the country's improved ratings.

"One of the salutary effects of the fiscal consolidation is that it would provoke the structural transition from a consumption-led to an investment-led economic expansion," Salceda said.

Need to implement

The need to implement the pain package has become critical in the face of warnings by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and Fitch Ratings of a possible credit rating downgrade for the Philippines if the government fails to convince the international community that it is serious about fixing its financial woes.

The President warned that the Philippines risked a "painful economic death" within two years unless taxes are raised to avert a feared debt default.

She urged the country to "suffer the pain now and experience the gains two years hence (rather) than postpone the pain and die a painful economic death two years from now."

Popular opposition is posing a key stumbling block to Ms Arroyo's bid to balance the national budget through increased taxes.

A Pulse survey Pulse Asia last week found that 78 percent of Filipinos "see no need to impose new taxes as long as the government strengthens its tax collection efforts."

The eight-month budget deficit rose to P111.1 billion in August, compared to the full-year ceiling of P198 billion, or 4.2 percent of the gross domestic product, the finance department said yesterday. **(See related story on page B1.)**

On Monday Fitch Ratings warned the Philippines of a potential sovereign credit downgrade if no tax measures were passed by year's end. Philippine government securities are now two notches below investment grade.

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Was it the chauffeur or the papaitan?

We've never figured it out really, what worked better in the end, but we're thankful anyway.

Mrs. Gwen Roces had always been accompanied by her husband to the bank. He'd open the door for her, see her through, explain what the forms were for, tell her where to sign. And she'd always be listening cheerfully, her pen flashing in compliance. She was glad, we guessed, to have someone sorting out all the forms and procedures for her.

But the day came when Mr. Roces, quite regrettably, passed away. And our account with his wife appeared doomed to follow in his footsteps as well.

Until we remembered that she had never, in all her years with us, come to the bank by herself. It was always an adventure she embarked upon with her husband. And something we couldn't expect her to do alone.

So we arranged for a driver to pick her up at her house and bring her over. Smiling awkwardly, she stepped into the car. And just as awkwardly, we stepped into the role long reserved for her husband.

Smile by smile, we navigated the course of her transactions with her. And told her that if she wanted, we could keep on doing the same thing for her every time she needed to visit the bank. Her smile was all the yes we needed.

We took her to lunch, too, that day. To a place that, to our knowledge, served the best papaitan in Manila (we had learned earlier that it was, strangely enough, her favorite dish). She talked about how she was coping with the loss of her husband, about how the house seemed too big now, about how helpful people had been to her. And how the papaitan fell somehow short of its billing.

We had the driver bring her back home and we heard nothing from Mrs. Roces for the next two weeks. And then she called, asking to be picked up. She had some deposits to make, she said. And a newly cooked pot full of what was truly, as we discovered, the best papaitan in Manila.

(If this doesn't sound like the kind of relationship you have with your bank, you may want to give us a try.)

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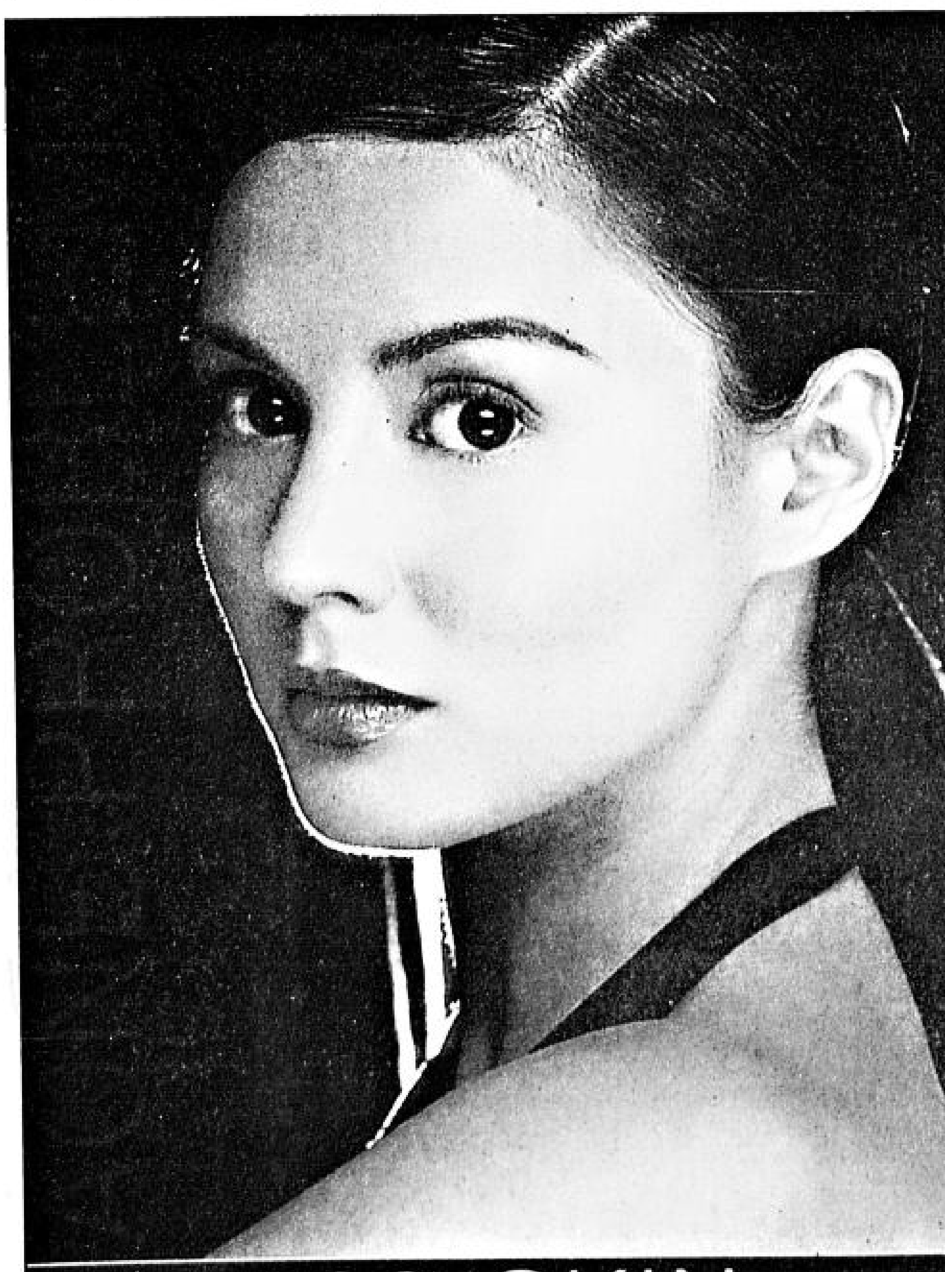

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'NO POLITICAL DEBT'

El Shaddai man takes over LRTA

By Clarissa S. Batino

LONGTIME spokesperson of El Shaddai Melquiades Robles will take over as administrator of the Light Rail Transit Authority today amid accusations that his appointment was President Macapagal-Arroyo's settlement of a political debt.

Robles, 40, denounced his critics. "This is an affront to the intelligence of the President. After the elections, she doesn't owe anybody anything. There is no political payback," he said, even as he acknowledged that El Shaddai, with its membership of millions, supported Ms Arroyo in the last election.

A music teacher, Robles will take over from former solon Pacifico Fajardo who headed the LRT for only six months.

"I was a music teacher. I was choir director of El Shaddai before I was made its spokesperson. I believe I am qualified because otherwise, I don't think the President would have appointed me," he said. "I am the only LRTA administrator with board experience. Most other heads appointed in the past came in from the cold."

Robles graduated a music major from Santa Isabel College in 1989. He took a professional manager's program at the Ateneo de Manila University in 1992. He was also a director of Intercontinental Broadcasting Corp. from 1998 to 2003.

His appointment as LRTA administrator was released as early as Aug. 17 but there was some misunderstanding with his predecessor.

"There was a miscue but it is now settled," said Robles, who had been a member of the railway board since last year.

When he was private sector representative to the LRTA board, Robles figured in a bidding controversy and reportedly locked heads with Fajardo's group. He, however, denied having any part in the P264-million contract for the maintenance of LRT 1.

Ms Arroyo wanted to appoint him at the helm of the LRTA as early as February this year, he revealed, but accepting the position before the elections would have been given political color.

Robles said that like all political appointees, he would serve at the pleasure of the president.

"She can relieve me of my post tomorrow, next week, or next month and it's OK because I serve at her pleasure. But while I am in this post, I will try to improve the institution," he said without elaborating.

In his short stint as LRTA chief, Fajardo was able to open phase two of LRT 2. But like those before him, Fajardo left LRTA with a huge debt because of billions in subsidies it had to pour in because of unprofitable railway operations.

Last year, the LRTA posted a revenue of more than P5 billion but its debt remained at more than P30 billion.

PDI reporter accuses PSG of harassment

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

AN INQUIRER reporter has lodged a formal complaint with the Presidential Security Group over an incident on Sunday where he was refused entry to Malacañang and held for one hour as part of a "random security check."

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., one of the INQUIRER's two reporters covering the Palace, said: "I have a valid car pass, a Malacañang Press Corps ID and a legitimate reason to be in the press work area at Kalayaan Hall.

"Unfortunately, the PSG guards went on their usual power trip and wanted to show who the boss was," Cabacungan said in his complaint letter to PSG chief Col. Delfin Bangit.

Bangit, however, stood by his men, saying he did not find anything wrong with their actions and Cabacungan had been merely "subjected to a random security check."

"I will not tolerate any misdeeds by my men but I could not find any fault (with them)," Bangit said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

Cabacungan said he went through the security check at the first sentry gate on J. P. Laurel Street where he rolled down his window and showed his pass to the guard who peered into his car.

"As he told me to go, I asked him why he picked me for a security check when he had waved on the two or three cars ahead of me. He said something inaudible and I drove off," Cabacungan said.

He said he was allowed through the second checkpoint near St. Jude Church but was stopped at Gate 6, which leads to Kalayaan Hall where the press has its work area.

"The two guards told me to go back to the first checkpoint to see the guard who had ordered me to stop. I refused because I had all the valid cards to enter Malacañang," he said.

"After 10 minutes, another guard in a *barong* arrived and engaged me in a heated argument," Cabacungan said. He said the PSG man walked away when he asked for his name.

At about 1:30 p.m., he said a Captain Darilag came to talk to him at Gate 6, telling him he was being stopped because he "ran away" from the checkpoint.

"I told Darilag I had no reason to run away and that I would never risk getting shot at, especially by PSG guards," Cabacungan said.

He said Darilag told him to lower his voice but he said he was not shouting.

"It was Darilag, not me, who was getting angry and this he admitted. 'Yes, I'm getting angry at you now,'" he quoted the PSG officer.

"He then said I was free to go, almost an hour after being stopped at Gate 6," Cabacungan said.

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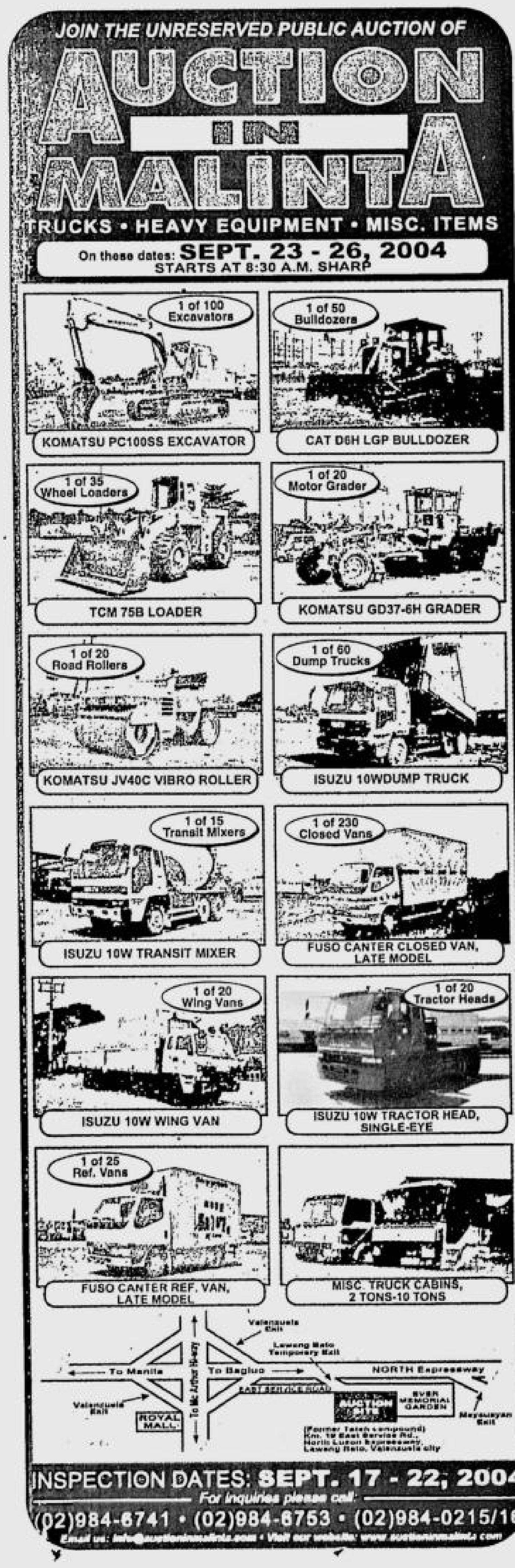

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Reenacted budget for 2005 looms

By Christine O. Avendaño and Cynthia D. Balana

WITH hearings on the proposed 2005 national budget indefinitely suspended, some senators now doubt it would ever be passed this year, raising fears that the government would again have to operate on a reenacted budget for the second straight year.

The senators blamed the delay on the slow pace of the budget deliberations at the House as well as the lower chamber's move to adopt line item budgeting to tackle the proposed budget.

The House appropriations committee on Monday declared an indefinite suspension of budget hearings.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said the House, which has the first look at the proposed budget, was already behind schedule on its deliberations on the proposed P907.6-billion budget for 2005.

"And at the rate of how things are going, you can more or less see," Arroyo told reporters, warning that current controversies generated by the fiscal problems may affect the budget deliberations.

Arroyo admitted that the government would have to contend with a reenacted budget if Congress fails to pass the 2005 budget by the end of the year.

Both Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. believe the adoption of line item budgeting would further delay the enactment of the proposed budget.

Like Arroyo, both Lacson and Villar said there was a danger the government would have to operate on a reenacted budget again if Congress resorts to line item budgeting.

Last year, Congress had to reenact the 2003 budget after it failed to pass the proposed 2004 national budget on time.

Lacson said that line item budgeting would be a "tedious" task since lawmakers will have to identify all the projects they want funded by their pork barrel.

"Assuming each of us will identify 100 projects, that's 100 items per senator," he told reporters.

He said this would mean that Congress would not be able to finish deliberations on time.

"And that's a problem because the Constitution does not provide for reenactment of a reenacted budget," Lacson said.

Villar told reporters that line item budgeting would take up much time.

"I have no problem in a line budgeting system, I'm just worried about the time (it would take)," he said.

He, however, fears this might cause delay in the passage of the proposed budget and might end up with Congress passing a reenacted budget again.

Cleared, Yap defends ₱432-M fertilizer deal

AGRICULTURE Secretary Arthur Yap yesterday defended the P432-million fertilizer deal by the Department of Agriculture last year and expressed confidence that the other agriculture officials accused of graft in connection with the transaction would also be exonerated.

Two days after he was cleared, Yap also expressed the hope that the Ombudsman would act expeditiously on the complaint filed by former agriculture employee Marlene Esperat last year.

The charges stemmed from the alleged overprice of P432 million worth of fertilizers bought by the department last year. Named respondents in the case were Yap, Agriculture Undersecretary Edmund Sana, former Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, assistant secretaries Ibarra Poliquit and Belinda Gonzalez, legal service head Eduardo Garcia, chief accountant Ophelia Agawin, Jesus Varela, Benjamin Tabios and businessman Pepito Alvarez, majority owner of Philippine Phosphate Fertilizer Corp.

The Ombudsman had cleared Yap in the preliminary investigation on the fertilizer controversy and dropped his name from the list of respondents in the complaint.

Yap, who was then National Food Authority administrator, had branded the charges as "an orchestrated demolition job" to prevent his confirmation as agriculture secretary, coming as it did so soon after his appointment to the post.

"Clearly, this is a case of political harassment," he said in a press statement.

"We welcome the opportunity for the concerned DA officials led by former Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante to clear their names. I believe in their innocence as I know that the procurement was made with DA funds and the process employed was of open and public bidding participated in by known fertilizer suppliers," Yap said.

Ex-finance usec not yet off the hook

By Armand N. Nocum

HE'S NOT off the hook.

Although Finance Undersecretary Inocencio Ferrer Jr. had been sacked as co-chair of Special Presidential Task Force 156, the Ombudsman would continue to investigate his alleged irregularities.

In an interview, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said Ferrer remained liable for his crime although he had been fired from government service.

"We will request (a report of the) proceedings at the Senate blue ribbon committee. If evidence warrants it, he should be investigated by the Ombudsman," said Villa-Ignacio, who heads the prosecution of the P5.3-billion tax credit scam involving the Chingkoe group of companies at the Sandiganbayan.

Ferrer quit as finance undersecretary and co-chair of the SPTF amid accusations that the agency had bungled its own cases in exchange for some favors. Later, President Macapagal-Arroyo herself said that Ferrer had been sacked.

The Ombudsman has recently made the couple Felix and Rosita Chingkoe—who were earlier implicated in the scam—witnesses in the case.

Felix, co-founder and unseated head of the Chingkoe group of companies, is expected to give documentary and testimonial evidence on the alleged conspiracy hatched by his brother Faustino and finance officials to defraud the government of billions in tax credit certificates (TCCs).

A TCC is proof of a company's claim for tax credits, granted either to exporting firms that are entitled to duty-free privileges or tax refunds.

Solon wants uniform tax on all cigarettes

By Carlito Pablo

AT LEAST 88 billion cigarettes go up in smoke in the country each year. Corollary to this is the staggering P46 billion in health care costs due to tobacco-related diseases.

Rep. Crispin Remulla (NP, Cavite) yesterday cited these figures in defending his proposal to impose an additional P2 per pack tax on all cigarette brands.

"We are in the midst of a tobacco epidemic," Remulla said on the sidelines of a House committee on ways and means hearing on proposals to raise cigarette and liquor taxes.

Remulla said a uniform tax would plug the loophole in the current four-tier tax system which allows manufacturers to introduce cheaper-priced brands into the market to avoid having to pay the higher taxes that are slapped on the more expensive brands.

"They're taking advantage of the system," said Remulla of the practice that encourages smokers to switch to the cheaper brands.

Remulla said a uniform tax increase would discourage smoking all around.

"A uniform tax will level the playing field," he said.

Under the current system, brands in packs of 20 with a retail price of P5 are taxed P1.12 a pack; brands priced between P5-P6.50 are taxed P5.60; those priced at P6-P8 are taxed P8.96, and brands priced P10 and above are charged P13.44 per pack.

Remulla said his P2 per pack additional tax proposal would translate to about P9 billion more in taxes.

In a separate interview, Rep. Florencio Noel (party-list An Waray) said he was crafting a related proposal pushing for a "single tax rate."

Noel said the single tax rate system was being used in all Southeast Asian countries except the Philippines.

"Collections are simpler because tax rates will be the same for all brands," he said.

In a paper circulated during the committee hearing, Dr. Encarnita Blanco-Limpin of the Philippine College of Chest Physicians said 20,000 Filipinos die each year of tobacco-related diseases.

"That's two or three (Filipinos dying) every hour," she said.

Cigarette smoking has been proven to cause cancer, heart disease, and pregnancy and birth complications, among other ailments. Even passive smokers, or those who inhale the smoke expelled by others, are vulnerable to such diseases.

"Smoking for more than 20 years will reduce your life span by 20 to 25 years," Limpin said.

Remulla noted that while the government earned about P21 billion each year from the sale of tobacco and tobacco products, P46 billion was lost in both private and public health care costs.

He said the P46-billion figure was arrived at by the Department of Health.

A leading cigarette company shared Remulla's view on the weakness of the current tax system.

"With the four-tier classification, when consumers switch to lower-priced brands, government actually collects less," said Philip Morris Philippines in a statement.

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VX240 2.4 DSL	958,000	100,000	76,507	52,635	41,745	30,075	24,539	20,830
SR 1.8 GAS A/T	896,000	100,000	68,235	46,944	37,260	26,844	21,903	18,578
GSX 2.0 GAS A/T	847,000	100,000	63,815	43,902	34,849	25,107	20,485	17,375
GLX 1.8 GAS A/T	807,000	100,000	60,206	41,420	32,881	23,689	19,328	16,392
GL GAS	698,000	100,000	50,373	34,655	27,517	19,824	16,175	13,715
DLX GAS (15.08%dp)	663,000	100,000	47,216	32,483	25,794	18,584	15,163	12,855
DLX GAS (50%dp)	663,000	331,500	27,625	18,417	14,261	10,230	8,313	7,014
DLX DSL	690,000	100,000	52,331	36,002	28,556	20,573	16,786	14,248

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AGLIPAY

New PNP posts for 'floating' officers

By Christian V. Esguerra

THREE high ranking officers of the Philippine National Police on "floating" status for a long time because of their close association with opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, will finally get a chance to return to active service.

PNP chief Edgar Aglipay yesterday said that, in the spirit of reconciliation, he would soon give key assignments to Directors Lucas Managuelod, Victor Batac and Reynaldo Acop, among Lacson's most trusted lieutenants when he was PNP chief.

"It's high time that we reconcile," he told reporters in Filipino.

Aglipay said he would appoint Managuelod as president of the Public Safety Mutual Benefit Fund Inc. and Batac and Acop to the Senior Officers Promotions and Placements Board.

"These will just serve as initial assignments," he explained. "Later on, we'll give them better assignments."

Though not particularly excited about the assignment, Managuelod said he was thanking Aglipay for "repairing the damage done" by his predecessor, retired Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

"As a professional officer, I'll report as soon as I receive an order," he told the INQUIRER. "It's my job. I won't choose assignments."

Managuelod blamed Ebdane for sacking him for "no apparent reason" as head of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management in January 2003. He has since been "semi-retired" and on floating status.

Batac and Acop, Aglipay and Lacson's classmates at Philippine Military Academy Class 1971, had been suffering much longer.

Both officers have been with the Headquarters Support Service, widely considered as the dumping ground for officers unwanted by the incumbent PNP leadership or by Malacañang, since Jan. 23, 2001.

Before that, Batac headed the Directorate for Police Community Relations and Acop, the Directorate for Personnel Records Management.

Managuelod and company were convinced they were sacked simply because of their association with Lacson, then a fierce critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"When he left the PNP, Ebdane claimed his greatest achievement was the unity he established within the organization," Managuelod said. "But there's really no 'one PNP' to speak of. He was himself a cause of disunity."

Among the 10 PNP directors (two-star generals), Batac is the most senior, having gotten his second star on Dec. 22, 1998. Acop is second because he was promoted on Aug. 21, 2000.

Managuelod is tied with Director Ricardo de Leon, the PNP's new point man against illegal drugs, at third. They got their promotions on Sept. 3 the following year.

Managuelod will reach his mandatory retirement age of 56 on March 9, Acop on June 18 and Batac on Dec. 15 next year.

Managuelod urged Aglipay to grant similar opportunities to other "floating" officers.

Drop in kidnap cases reported

By Christian V. Esguerra

KIDNAPPING cases involving members of the Chinese-Filipino community nationwide have dropped by as much as 50 percent this year, a group of businessmen said yesterday.

In fact, the Chinese Filipino Business Club Inc., an organization of around 1,000 businessmen nationwide, said it had not received any report of kidnapping in the past two to three weeks.

"Really there was a big drop," the group's spokesperson Daniel Laogan told reporters, citing informal survey among members of the Chinese Filipino community.

"I'll tell you the truth. For the last two to three weeks, we have not heard of any live kidnapping cases."

Asked if victims probably just didn't want to report cases, Laogan said he and his group would have their way of knowing if there were indeed unreported kidnapping incidents.

"We in the community are basically *chismosos,*" he said. "We usually learn about cases within 24 hours. But there have been no rumors about live cases whatsoever."

Laogan could not immediately produce available data on kidnapping cases involving Chinese-Filipinos to show that incidents had indeed been slashed by half this year.

Despite the absence of exact figures, his group commended the increased police visibility, especially in Metro Manila, for the purported drop.

"If this measure continues," Laogan said, "we believe kidnapping cases would drop even further."

The Philippine National Police has been on 24-hour patrol of urban centers and other densely populated areas since Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay replaced Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. last Aug. 23.

Aglipay yesterday said kidnapping cases might have indeed dropped by 50 percent, but asked Chinese-Filipinos to "knock on wood."

Mananquil; 86

MAURA Capati Guillermo-Mananquil, mother of Press Undersecretary and former Vice Mayor Robert Mananquil and mother-in-law of Star associate and lifestyle editor Millet Martinez-Mananquil, died on Saturday. She was 86.

She is the widow of Marcos Ticsay Mananquil. Her other children are municipal assessor Emmanuel Mananquil, Paz M. Chavez, Teresa M. Barretto and US-based daughters Zenaida M. Jimenez, Lilia M. Brown and Edna M. Brown.

Her remains lie at the family residence in Barangay San Roque in La Paz, Tarlac. She will be buried today at the La Paz Cemetery after an 8 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Peace Parish Church.

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Mefenamic Acid susp. 50 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 24.00	104.00	80.00/bot
Mefenamic Acid tab. 500 mg	✓ 1.70	20.85	19.15/tab
Paracetamol syrup 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 21.70	63.50	41.80/bot
Paracetamol tab 500 mg	✓ 0.60	2.45	1.85/tab
Anti-biotic (Kontra-Bakterya)			
Amoxicillin cap. 250 mg	✓ 2.60	8.95	6.35/cap
Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.70	15.75	12.05/cap
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 45.10	144.00	98.90/bot
Ampicillin cap. 500 mg	✓ 6.50	14.15	7.65/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.20	37.75	34.55/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 40.40	394.75	354.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓ 2.30	26.00	23.70/tab
Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓ 2.60	14.80	12.20/cap
Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓ 25.40	115.75	90.35/bot
Anti-cough (Para sa Ubo)			
Bromhexine HCL syrup 4 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 26.70	74.75	48.05/bot
Carbocisteine cap. 500 mg	✓ 2.40	12.25	9.85/cap
Carbocisteine susp. 100 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 32.70	87.25	54.55/bot
Anti-diarrhea (Para sa pagtatae)			
Loperamide cap. 2mg	✓ 1.80	10.25	8.45/cap

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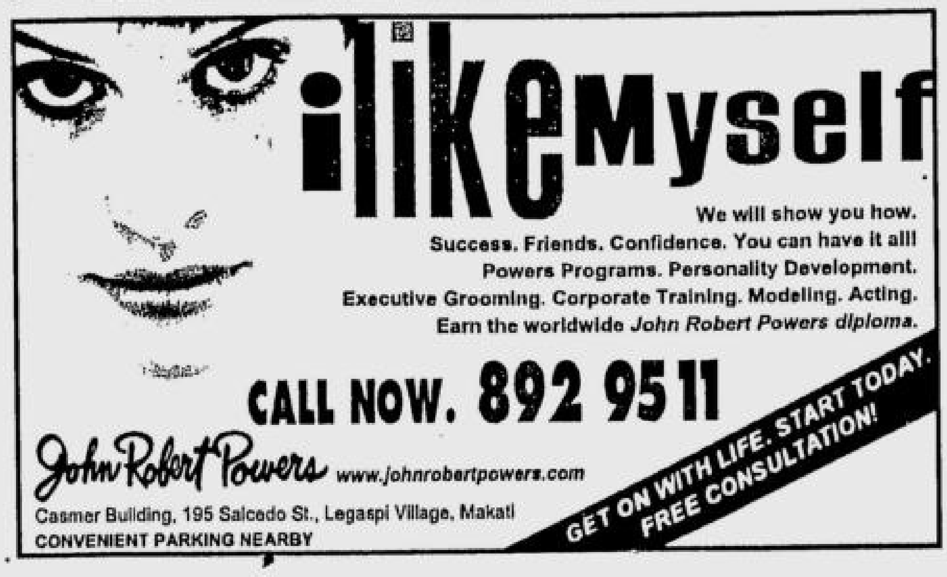

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Garcia, sis under fire over ₱5M in advances

From page A1

an atrocious salary and allowance. She prepares the disbursement vouchers for the approval of her brother. This alone is already an auditing no-no," he said.

At a press conference where he was joined by officials of the Kapisanan ng mga Manggagawa sa GSIS, Suplico said he filed Resolution No. 276 calling for an inquiry into the alleged mismanagement and misuse of funds by GSIS officials.

Representatives Benasing Macarambon (NPC, Lanao del Sur), Eduardo Veloso (NPC, Leyte) and Marcelino Libanan (Lakas, Eastern Samar) were co-sponsors of the resolution.

Solid and growing

Officials of the GSIS welcomed a House probe.

"(I)t will surely show that under the present management, GSIS finances are sound, solid and growing. In fact in the year 2000, GSIS had a net income of only P20 billion compared with the P35-billion net income in 2003 under the incumbency of Winston Garcia as audited by the Commission on Audit," GSIS executive vice president Rey Palmiery said in a statement.

At the press conference, reporters were furnished copies of cash advances and vouchers signed by Garcia and his sister.

Suplico said that next to Garcia, Empemano was the second most powerful person in the GSIS. She was also a member of the GSIS Personnel, Selection and Promotions Board.

Documents showed that in his first four months in office in 2001, Garcia made cash advances totaling P3.34 million broken down as follows: Land Bank Check No. 212159 dated Feb. 9, 2001, P500,000; Land Bank Check No. 215261 dated April 5, 2001, P1 million, Land Bank Check No. 215707 dated April 18, 2001, P840,000, and Land Bank Check No. 218878 dated June 11, 2001, P1 million.

In December 2001, Garcia again made additional cash advances totaling P1.9 million as reflected in Land Bank Check No. 231401 (Dec. 6), P150,000; Land Bank Check No. 231938 (Dec. 10), P1 million, and Land Bank Check No. 232303 (Dec. 14), P760,000.

Self-serving certification

Suplico said Garcia had not shown how he spent the money and merely presented a one-page "self-serving certification" that said he used such a huge amount "in relation to or by reason of my position as president and general manager of the Government Service and Insurance System."

"This must be the shortest liquidation of the largest cash advances in the entire country. Or is it Winston's pork barrel?" Suplico said.

He said another auditing no-no was the absence of explanations that accompany disbursements.

Suplico said Garcia's discretionary cash advances were both unlawful and illegal.

Of the eight disbursement or liquidation vouchers, seven had been certified by Empemano while one voucher was certified by Garcia as the disbursing officer himself.

The lawmaker said Garcia manipulated accounting rules to benefit himself.

Nothing irregular

GSIS senior vice president Enriqueta Disuanco defended Garcia.

"There is nothing wrong or irregular for heads of government agencies and corporations to make cash advances because these are normal financial activities, as long as these advances are properly liquidated in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit," she said in a statement.

Disuanco said only the COA could question the legality and propriety of the disbursements.

"In the case of the GSIS, all cash advances were liquidated within the prescribed period and passed in audit by the COA," she said. "These are issues raised year in and year out by critics who are out to discredit the gains achieved by the GSIS in the past three years."

Salaries of other GSIS execs

Suplico said the salaries of other GSIS officials were almost similar to executives of government-owned and-controlled corporations (GOCCs).

For example, the salary of Reynaldo Palmiery, executive vice president, was P279,482; Arnaldo Cuasay, senior vice president-housing, P166,734; Enriqueta Disuanco, senior vice president-social insurance, P166,734; Leticia Sagcal, senior vice president–internal audit, P166,734, and Benjamin Vivas, senior vice president–information technology, P150,211.

J. Fernando Campana, vice president–human resources, P151,450; Alex Valencerina, vice president-branches, P138,945; Ella Valencerina, vice president–public relations, P110,775, and, Felicidad Gutierrez, vice president–human resources, P110,775.

Palmiery took exception to claims that the salaries of the GSIS executives were excessive or immoral.

He said the salaries of GSIS executives were comparable to executives in large financial corporations handling billions of pesos in corporate funds owned by its members and stockholders.

"We cannot just toy with the pension funds of more than one million GSIS employees who depend on the GSIS for their decent survival after retirement," Palmiery said.

He said the GSIS must have executives of proven competence, experience and integrity to run the pension fund. "To place the GSIS in the hands of improperly trained and inexperienced personnel just because they are willing to accept substandard pay would be the height of irresponsibility, and a betrayal of the GSIS members' trust," he said.

Palmiery urged the public, especially GSIS members, not to be taken in by mere accusations and speculations designed to attract public attention.

"We will also show that all those scurrilous attacks of alleged immorality and lavish expenditures by the GSIS are without basis and are mere figments of the imagination of those who wish us ill," he said.

Amid the public outcry over the huge salaries of executives of GOCCs and government financial institutions, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered last week her nominees to the agencies to trim their compensation and observe her austerity program.

Heeding Ms Arroyo's call, Garcia said he was voluntarily giving up P160,000 of his monthly take-home pay of P200,000.

Complaint

Suplico also showed a complaint filed by George Ramos, the GSIS resident ombudsman, against Garcia on May 7, 2001 for driving him out of the building.

In his letter to Malacañang, Ramos said Garcia padlocked his office in his absence and without sufficient reason shortly after the resident ombudsman filed a case against Garcia for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

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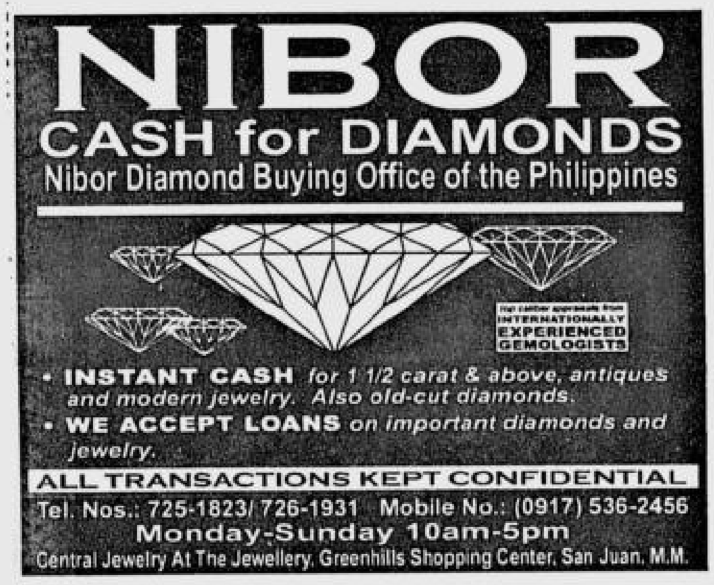

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High court 'rules' vs love

From page A1

ensure "maximum profit and business success."

In a 21-page resolution dated Sept. 17, the court's Second Division denied the petition of Pedro A. Tecson, a medical representative of Glaxo Wellcome Philippines Inc., who complained that he was constructively dismissed when he was reassigned to another sales area because he had married Bettsy Tecson, an employee of Astra Pharmaceuticals, Glaxo's competitor.

Corporate right

The tribunal said Glaxo's prohibition against marital or personal relationships with employees of competitor companies was legal and Tecson's petition lacked merit.

"Glaxo has a right to guard its trade secrets, manufacturing formulas, marketing strategies and other confidential programs and information from competitors, especially so since it and Astra are rival companies in the highly competitive pharmaceutical industry," according to the resolution penned by Justice Dante Tinga.

"The policy being questioned is not a policy against marriage. An employee of the company remains free to marry anyone of his or her choosing ... However, an employee's personal decision does not detract the employer from exercising management prerogatives to ensure maximum profit and business success," it added.

Conflict of interest

The tribunal noted that the wording of Glaxo's contractual provisions and employee handbook showed that it did not impose an absolute prohibition against such relations, but merely sought to avoid conflict of interest between the employee and the company that could arise.

"(The Constitution) recognizes the right of enterprises to adopt and enforce such a policy to protect their right to reasonable returns on investments and to expansion and growth," the court said.

"The law also recognizes that management has rights, which are also entitled to respect and enforcement in the interest of fair play," it added.

Tecson had been with Glaxo since 1995 and was assigned to the Camarines Sur-Camarines Norte sales area in the Bicol region. There he met and courted Bettsy, who supervised Astra's district managers and medical representatives and prepared marketing strategies in the area.

"Even before they got married, Tecson received several reminders from his district manager regarding the conflict of interest which his relationship with Bettsy might engender. Still, love prevailed, and Tecson married Bettsy in September 1998," the tribunal said.

One must quit

In January 1999, Tecson's superiors informed him that his marriage to Bettsy gave rise to a conflict of interest.

They reminded him that he and Bettsy should decide which one of them would resign from their job, "although they told him they wanted to retain him as much as possible because he was performing well in his job," the court said.

Tecson asked for time to review his and his wife's options but in November 1999, Glaxo transferred him to the Butuan City-Surigao City-Agusan del Sur sales area in northern Mindanao.

Tecson asked Glaxo to reconsider its decision but his request was denied. Tecson defied his transfer order and continued to work in Bicol.

While he appealed his transfer to the Glaxo grievance committee, Tecson was paid his salary but was not issued samples of Glaxo products which were in competition with those of Astra. He was also not included in conferences about those products.

Arbitration

However, the two parties could not agree and they submitted the matter for voluntary arbitration. Glaxo offered Tecson a P50,000 separation pay but he refused.

In November 2000, the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) ruled that Glaxo's policy was valid and it had the right to transfer Tecson. He appealed to the Court of Appeals but last year, it too ruled against him.

This prompted Tecson to go to the Supreme Court, which upheld Glaxo's action.

The court noted Glaxo enforced its no-marriage-with-rivals policy only after repeated requests for Tecson to comply with the transfer order.

It said the policy was implemented in an "impartial and even-handed manner, with due regard to the employee."

The court said that Tecson was even given several months to remedy the situation, and was even encouraged "not to resign" but to ask his wife to resign from Astra instead.

It said Tecson also knew of Glaxo's policy even before the firm hired him.

"Therefore, he was aware of that restriction when he signed his employment contract and when he married his wife," the court said.

"Tecson signed a contract that stipulates, among others, that he agrees to disclose to management any existing or future relationship by consanguinity or affinity with co-employees or employees of competing drug companies, and should management find that such relationship poses a possible conflict of interest, to resign from the company," it added.

The court also said that a similar provision was included in the code of conduct of Glaxo's employees.

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TOP DROP RATING
-VISIT THE WINERIES BOOTHS AND VOTE FOR THE TOP RED AND WHITE OF THE SHOW!
BLIND TASTING
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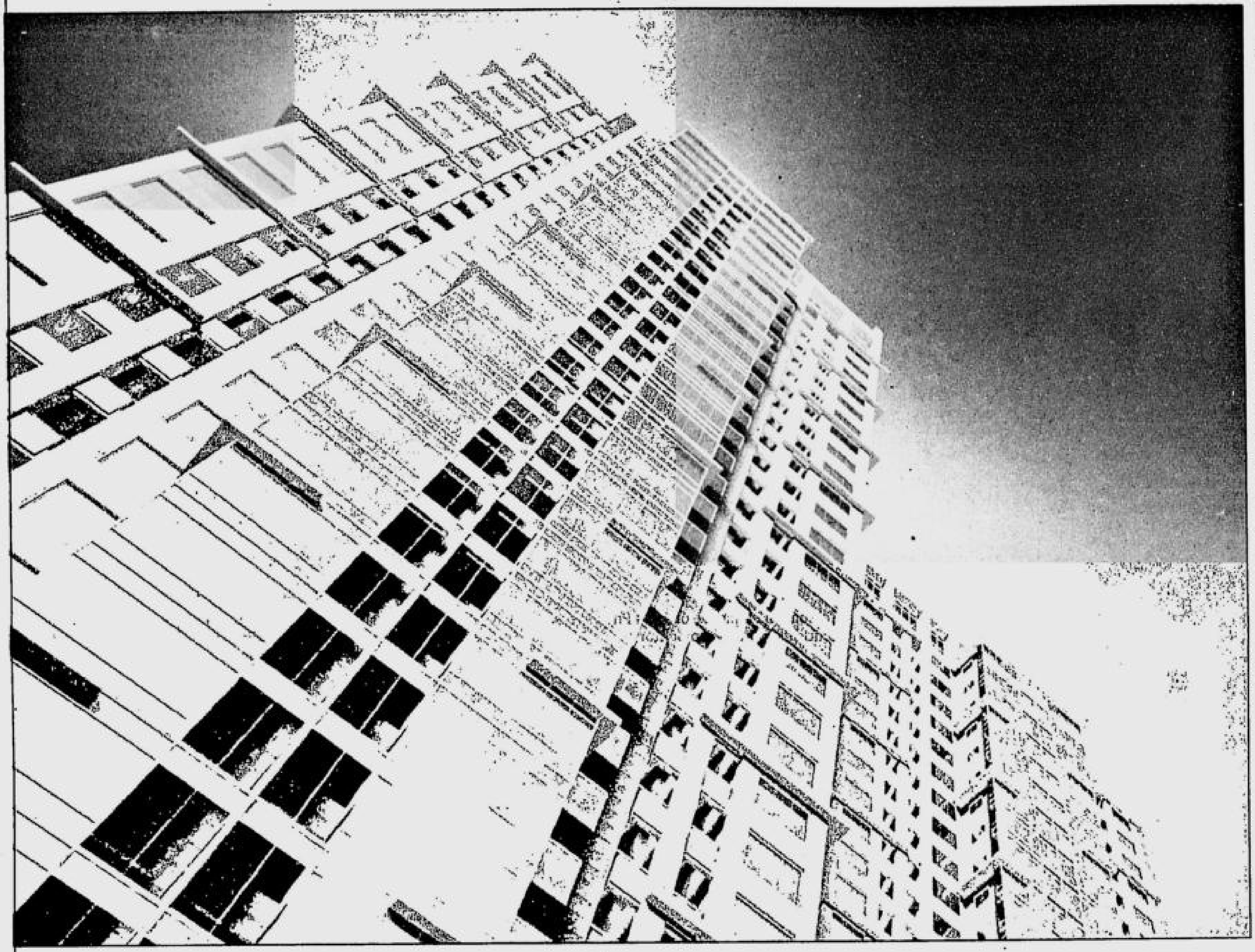

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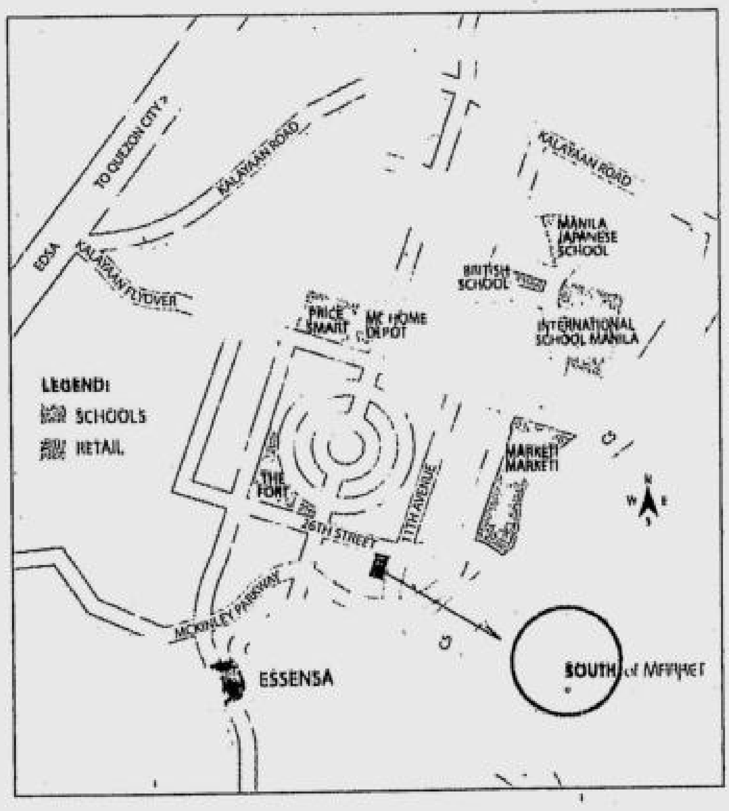
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Kerry blasts Bush over Iraq invasion

NEW YORK—Democratic presidential contender John Kerry accused President George W. Bush of creating a "crisis of historic proportions" as infighting over Iraq dominated the US election campaign.

Kerry's strongest attack yet on Bush's action in Iraq came a day ahead of the US president's Tuesday address to the UN General Assembly, where he was again expected to seek to justify the March 2003 invasion to oust Saddam Hussein.

The Massachusetts senator called for a national debate on Iraq and the war on terror.

But while repeating a hope to replace US troops with soldiers from other countries and Iraqi security forces, Kerry added no new proposals on how to handle the crisis where the US military is suffering a mounting toll.

In a speech at New York University, Kerry said Iraq had become a "profound diversion" from the war on terror "and the battle against our greatest enemy, Osama bin Laden and the terrorists."

"Invading Iraq has created a crisis of historic proportions and, if we do not change course, there is the prospect of a war with no end in sight," said Kerry, who is battling to unseat Bush in the Nov. 2 election.

Kerry conceded that "some progress" has been made in Iraq, "but most Iraqis have lost faith in our ability to deliver meaningful improvements to their lives."

Bush has acknowledged that miscalculations were made in Iraq, but Kerry said: "That is one of the greatest understatements in recent American history."

"His were not the equivalent of accounting errors. They were colossal failures of judgment and judgment is what we look for in a president."

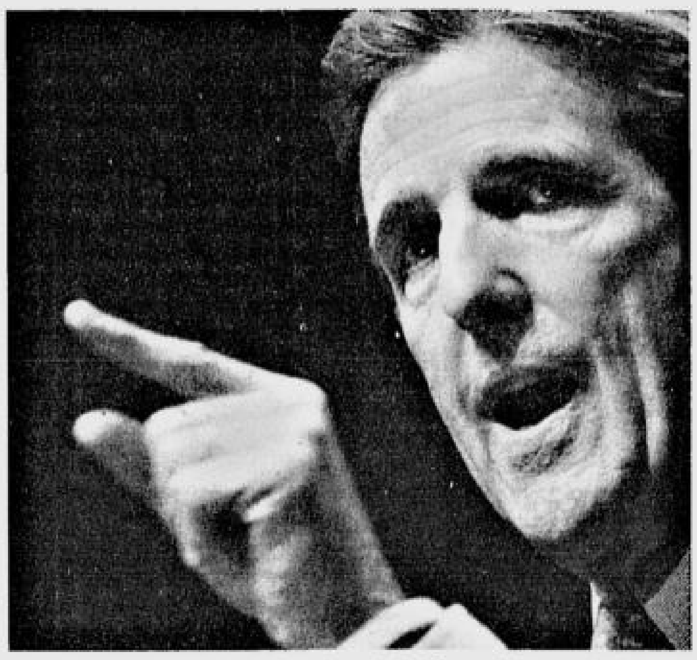
Bush struck back at Kerry, saying the Democrat lacks new ideas for ending deadly chaos in Iraq.

"Forty-three days before the election, my opponent has now suddenly settled on a proposal for what to do next—and it's exactly what we're currently doing," Bush told supporters at a rally in New Hampshire.

"We're working with the international partners, we're training Iraqi troops, we're reconstructing the (country), we're preparing for elections. We're going to have elections in January," Bush said.

Bush said Kerry "prefers the stability of a dictatorship to the hope and security of democracy. I couldn't disagree more."

"And not so long ago, so did my opponent," he added, quoting Kerry as saying in December that those doubting whether the world would be better off without Saddam Hussein "don't have the judgment to be president or the credibility to be elected president." *AFP*



DEMOCRATIC presidential nominee John Kerry delivers a foreign policy speech at New York University in New York City. REUTERS

Annan takes fresh swipe at Bush

UNITED NATIONS—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan took a fresh jab at US President George W. Bush on Tuesday, in a clear sign that world opinion was still far from making peace with the war in Iraq.

Annan opened this year's annual debate of world leaders at the United Nations by criticizing Bush's plan to deliver democracy to Iraq through force in a pointed speech aimed at underlining the importance of the rule of law.

"Those who seek to bestow legitimacy must themselves embody it, and those who invoke international law must themselves submit to it," Annan said, according to his prepared remarks.

"In Iraq, we see civilians massacred in cold blood while relief workers, journalists and other non-combatants are taken hostage and put to death in the most barbarous fashion," he said.

"At the same time, we have seen Iraqi prisoners disgracefully abused," he said, drawing a parallel between the Iraq bloodshed and the prisoner scandal in a way destined to irk Bush, who was to due to speak after Annan.

Annan has labored for a year to heal the deep divisions over the war that brought down Saddam Hussein, and his wide-ranging address referred to the catastrophe in Sudan, the Middle East conflict and Russia's hostage tragedy.

But the UN chief, who just last week called the war "illegal," also dropped repeated hints about what he has called Bush's unilateral decision to invade Iraq against the grain of international opinion.

"It is the law, including Security Council resolutions, which offers the best foundation for resolving prolonged conflicts—in the Middle East, in Iraq and around the world," he said.

"All states—strong and weak, big and small—need a framework of fair rules," the UN chief said.

Bush failed to win Security Council backing for the war and, if Annan's criticisms were less blunt than those he offered last year, his position remained at odds with Bush's defense of the war in the fight against terror. *AFP*

Family of US contractor prays for other hostages

HILLSDALE, Michigan—Through their grief and anger, relatives of an American construction worker beheaded in Iraq extended prayers for an American and a Briton still in captivity, while in London, the family of the Briton pleaded for his release.

A video posted Monday on a website showed the decapitation of a man identified as American contractor Eugene Armstrong. Armstrong and two others working as construction contractors, American Jack Hensley and Briton Kenneth Bigley, were abducted Thursday.

"This is what we did not want to hear," Armstrong's family said in a statement.

The militant group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi claimed responsibility for the slaying of Armstrong and said another hostage—either the American or the Briton—would be killed in 24 hours unless all Muslim women are freed from two US-controlled prisons in Iraq.

On Tuesday, Bigley's family pleaded with British Prime Minister Tony Blair to meet the captors' demands and save the hostage's life.

"I ask Tony Blair personally to consider the amount of bloodshed already suffered," his son Craig Bigley said in a videotaped statement. "Please meet the demands and release my father ... Only you can save him now. You have children and you will understand how I feel at this time."

Kenneth Bigley's brother Philip Bigley also pleaded with the captors to free the two men.

"We are begging you not to kill them," he said. "We are begging you to find a solution, a compromise, that will help to save two lives, innocent lives."

In a statement Monday, Cyndi Armstrong, speaking in Michigan for the Armstrong family, remembered Eugene Armstrong—known as Jack—as "a good guy" who "didn't like to stay in one place. He loved to travel."

She said his family was praying for Hensley, Bigley and their families.

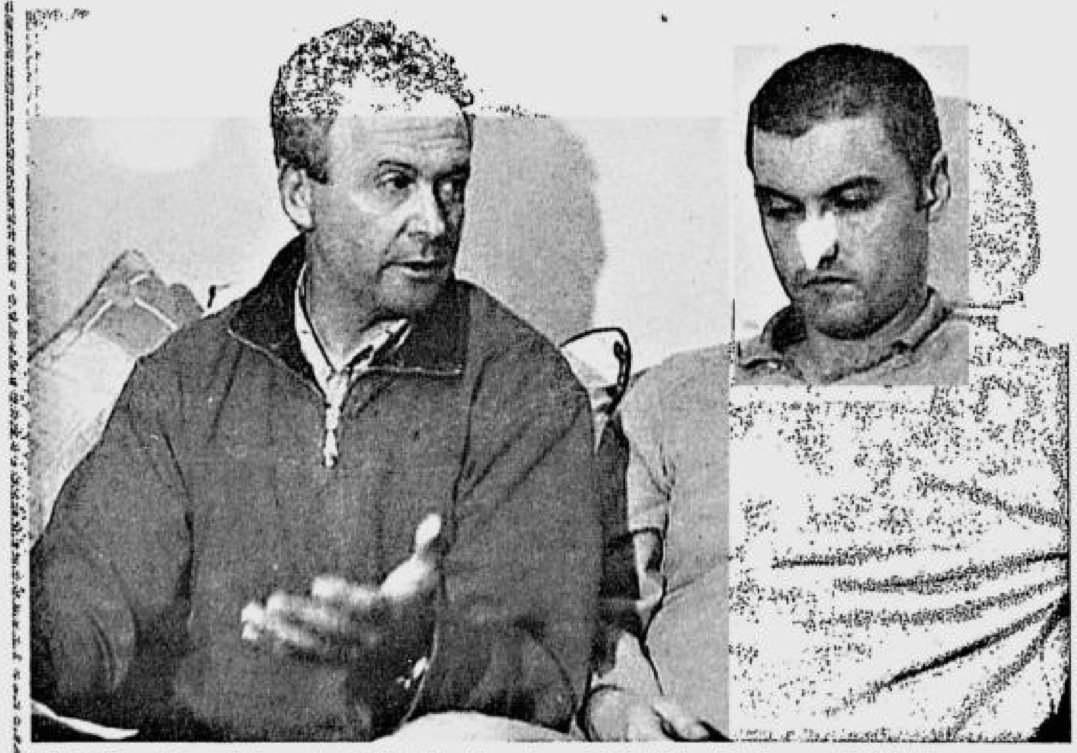
During a prayer vigil, two ministers addressed a crowd in front of the courthouse on the small city's main street. Yellow ribbons adorned the building's banister and trees around it, and many in the crowd carried American flags.

Armstrong, whose age was not immediately available, grew up in Hillsdale, about 160 km southwest of Detroit, but left the area around 1990. His construction work took him around the world; he lived in Thailand with his wife before going to Iraq.

Sen. Carl Levin released a statement extending his sympathy to Armstrong's family. "It is our fervent hope that those who perpetrated this atrocity on an innocent man will be brought to justice," said Levin.

In Marietta, Georgia, home of the other American held, friends and neighbors were seen approaching the Hensley home Monday and giving notes to a police officer posted outside. Two children, schoolmates of the Hensleys' daughter, Sara, arrived in the afternoon with a stack of cards and messages.

Speaking on CNN television, Patty Hensley, wife of Jack Hensley, said she was "devastated" to hear of Armstrong's death: "He was one of my husband's best friends and best co-workers and I know his family is terribly devastated at this point." *AP*



A VIDEO grab from Independent Television News shows Craig Bigley (L), the son of British hostage Kenneth Bigley who is being threatened with execution in Iraq, appealing to Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair to meet the demands of his kidnappers and save his life. REUTERS

US to sell smart bombs to Israel

JERUSALEM—The United States will sell Israel nearly 5,000 smart bombs in one of the largest weapons deals between the allies in years, the Haaretz newspaper reported Tuesday.

The deal could face political controversy since Israel has used such bombs in fighting with the Palestinians, the daily said. In one such instance in July 2002, a one-ton bomb meant for a senior Palestinian militant also killed 15 civilians in an attack in the Gaza Strip.

The deal is worth US$319 million and was revealed in a Pentagon report made to the U.S. Congress a few weeks ago, Haaretz said. Funding for the sale will come from the US military aid to Israel.

The bombs include airborne versions, guidance units, training bombs and detonators. The bombs are guided by an existing Israeli satellite used by the military.

As part of the deal, Israel will receive 500 one-ton bombs that can destroy two-meter concrete walls, 2,500 one-ton bombs, 1,000 half-ton bombs and 500 quarter-ton bombs, the daily said.

The Pentagon wants through the deal to maintain Israel's military advantages and ensure US strategic and tactical interests, Haaretz said. AP

CBS admits 'mistake' in Bush military report

NEW YORK—CBS star television journalist Dan Rather on Monday apologized on prime time television for using dubious documents to back a report that cast doubts on President George W. Bush's Vietnam era military service.

"I want to say personally and directly, I'm sorry," Rather said after highlighting the network's regrets for using the documents which alleged that Bush had received preferential treatment to get into the Texas Air National Guard.

"We can no longer vouch for their authenticity," Rather said. "It was a mistake. CBS News deeply regrets it."

CBS had issued a statement earlier in the day apologizing for using the documents without fully checking their veracity.

The acknowledgement is a major embarrassment for the network, which for the past week had sought to stand by the report, despite growing pressure to admit it may have been misled as to the documents' provenance.

The memos—allegedly written by late Lt. Col. Jerry Killian, Bush's commanding officer in the Texas National Guard in the 1970s—suggested political pressure was exerted to "sugar coat" the future president's service record.

The "60 Minutes" report also charged that Bush's family connections had secured his assignment to the National Guard unit—a posting that effectively spared him active duty in Vietnam.

Soon after the report aired, questions were raised over the authenticity of the memos, with numerous experts arguing the typeface could have been produced only by a modern-day word processor, not Vietnam War-era typewriters.

Heyward insisted that "60 Minutes" had "full confidence" in the original report at the time of its broadcast.

However, further forensic investigation, as well as interviews with Killian's former secretary Marian Carr Knox and retired National Guard Lt. Bill Burkett, who provided the documents, had challenged those earlier assumptions, he said.

In his interview to be broadcast Monday evening, Burkett admits that he deliberately misled the CBS News producer working on the report, giving her a false account of the documents' origins to protect a promise of confidentiality to the actual source. *AFP*

Arabs wonder why many Muslims commit terror in Islam's name

BEIRUT—The rash of kidnappings, beheadings and explosions in Iraq, the killing of innocent children in Russia, and car bombings in Turkey and Indonesia have sparked debate among Arab intellectuals on why the majority of terror acts have been committed by Muslims acting in the name of Islam.

Some blame the violence on an atmosphere of intolerance and extremism that has bred hatred of non-Muslims and urge honest soul-searching as a remedy; others insist the problem is with the West, particularly the United States and its unconditional support of Israel and its war on Iraq.

The debate in newspaper columns, letters from readers and TV talk shows may be low-key, intermittent and limited to the intellectual elite, but some Arabs believe it's a step toward breaking the taboo of speaking out against problems within the Muslim religious establishment and its clergy and reversing support for extremism.

"The debate is a very positive indicator," said Sateh Noureddine, managing editor of the Lebanese newspaper As-Safir. "If it continues, it could pose the larger and more important question of how qualified are the Muslim religious establishment and clergy to lead a political platform?"

"Right now, Muslim youths can choose only between Osama bin Laden and semiliterate clerics," Noureddine added. "What is required is an Arab religious establishment that's civilized, educated and vigilant."

Speaking out against extremism is not new. A few months after the Sept. 11 attacks that were carried out by 19 Arabs, dozens of columns and opinion pieces appeared in the region's newspapers, especially those in Saudi Arabia, home to 15 of the hijackers, urging moderation.

But in the past few weeks, with the school siege in Russia that left more than 330 people dead and the resurgence of terror attacks in Iraq, where the victims of car bombs and beheadings are overwhelmingly Iraqis or Muslims, the debate has gained momentum. The effort is not an organized movement nor is it widespread, but it's a reflection of what's being discussed among some Arabs.

Condemnation has not only come from intellectuals, but also from some of the Muslim world's most prominent scholars. Egypt's foremost religious leader, Mohammed Sayed Tantawi, says "beheadings and (the) mutilation of bodies stand against Islam." And Lebanon's top Shiite Muslim cleric, Grand Ayatollah Sheik Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, maintains Islam doesn't sanction the killing and abduction of foreigners who are working and feel secure in Muslim countries.

However, when it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, many religious scholars say suicide bombings carried out by the militant Hamas and Islamic Jihad are acceptable.

"The Palestinian resistance against Zionist terrorism is one that we demand, bless and sanction," said Abdul-Aziz al-Khayat, a Jordanian scholar and former minister of religious affairs.

But he said blowing up buildings in Iraq, Turkey or Afghanistan, the abductions in Iraq, and attacks on Western residential compounds in Saudi Arabia "cannot be sanctioned because they don't target an oppressive power."

It's a view held by many Arabs, but it's being increasingly challenged.

Sulaiman al-Hattlan, a Saudi columnist, said Arabs "lack the human face" when it comes to condemning terror attacks, including those against Israelis. He said those who denounce such bombings usually do so for political reasons—because they do not advance the attackers' cause—and not for humanitarian reasons. *AP*

Yudhoyono seen to finally tame brutal Indon military

JAKARTA—The retired four-star general heading for victory in Indonesia's presidential elections may use his background to succeed where the country's post-dictator Suharto politicians have so far failed—bringing the powerful military brass under civilian control.

"If anyone can undertake serious reforms in the military, it's (Susilo Bambang) Yudhoyono," said Ken Conboy, a military expert and former deputy director at the Asian Studies Institute in Washington.

"Certainly nobody can doubt his credentials for the job," said Conboy, who now lives in Jakarta.

The generals have played the role of kingmaker in Indonesian political life since 1966, when a junta headed by General Suharto ousted founding president Sukarno and ushered in 32 years of military dictatorship.

Suharto used the armed forces to brutally repress any opposition. In exchange, he appointed loyal generals to key government posts and the rubber-stamp legislature.

Although their overt role has been declining since Suharto's ouster in 1998—this year they gave up their block of 38 reserved seats in parliament—the generals still retain immense behind-the-scenes influence which many say presents a serious threat to democracy.

The generals were instrumental in forcing both of Suharto's successors—B.J. Habibie and Abdurrahman Wahid—from office. In 2001, they surrounded the presidential palace with tanks, forcing Wahid to stage a quick exit.

His deputy, Megawati Sukarnoputri, was picked for the top job most likely because she promised to give the generals a free hand.

Because the US$2.5 billion defense budget is clearly inadequate, the military has traditionally financed up to 75 percent of its needs through a solid, nationwide network of military-owned companies and foundations. These institutions are beyond government control and are never audited. There is widespread speculation that a large chunk of their profits end up in the pockets of the brass.

Paradoxically, the military—long known for human rights abuses—also has found a new path to legitimacy and influence via the war on terrorism. The US administration, and particularly Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, a former ambassador to Jakarta, see the armed forces as a bulwark against Muslim radicalism in Southeast Asia.

But analysts have repeatedly warned that unless the military is brought under civilian control, Indonesia will never grow into a true democracy.

"If there is ever any threat to democracy in Indonesia, it will always first come from the military," said Salim Said, a political columnist and military analyst.

A vast majority of Indonesians have placed their hopes in Yudhoyono, a retired US-trained four-star general who served as Megawati's top security minister, to rein in the armed forces.

Despite his close ties with the top brass—he named 16 retired commanders to his campaign team, including former armed forces chief Adm. Widodo Adisutjipto—he is widely regarded as a reformer.

No one denies that the path of military reform will be slow and tortuous.

"Washington is very keen to offer some carrots (for military reform) and Yudhoyono is just the man to work with," said Greg Barton, of Australia's Deakin University. "He is still well liked enough by his military institution to get the backing for some changes." *AP*

INDONESIAN presidential candidate Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (right) shakes hand with his supporters after a brief late night news conference at his house in Cibubur outside Jakarta on Sept. 20.

REUTERS

US lifts sanctions on Libya

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush on Monday removed most economic sanctions on Libya, clearing the way for huge compensation payments to the families of victims of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing.

The restrictions were removed after Libya addressed concerns over its weapons programs, but Tripoli remains on the US list of state sponsors of terrorism, the State Department said.

Bush signed an executive order removing remaining economic restrictions on aviation services with Libya, permitting direct, scheduled and chartered flights, and unblocking approximately $1.3 billion in frozen assets.

"This step is taken in response to actions that Libya has taken over the past nine months to address concerns by the international community about its weapons of mass destruction programs," State Department spokesperson Adam Ereli told reporters.

Libya had set a Sept. 22 deadline for the United States to lift sanctions to pave the way for payment of the next tranche of compensation to families of the 270 people killed in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

"We expect the families of the victims of Pan Am 103 to receive over $1 billion in additional compensation from Libya," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said in a statement.

He said the families' "determination and courage" to hold Libya accountable "contributed greatly to efforts to secure an agreement under which Libya agreed to end all its WMD programs and pledged to end all connections with terrorism."

Some families of those killed in the bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, have pressed Bush to remove all sanctions, including dropping Libya from the list of "state sponsors of terrorism," to allow for the payment of the full $2.7 billion in compensation under a deal reached last year.

Under the deal, Libya agreed to pay the compensation and accept responsibility for the Lockerbie bombing in return for the lifting of UN and US sanctions. *AFP*

Floods kill more than 620 in Haiti

GONAIVES, Haiti—Bloated corpses filled morgues as Haitians faced yet another tragedy in a year marked by revolts, military interventions and deadly floods. At least 622 people were killed by Tropical Storm Jeanne, and officials expect to find many more bodies.

The corpses of two children lay on a sidewalk Monday in Gonaives, where one-third of the dead brought to the hospital were children. More than 500 people had died in the sprawling northern city, Toussaint Kongo-Doudou, a spokesman for the UN mission, told The Associated Press.

Another 17 died in the nearby town of Terre Neuve, agriculture official Madiro Morilus said, and 56 bodies were found in the northern city of Port-de-Paix, according to Kongo-Doudou.

Dieufort Deslorges, a spokesman for the government civil protection agency, reported another 49 bodies recovered in other villages and towns, most in the northwest.

"We expect to find dozens more bodies, especially in Gonaives, as ... floodwaters recede," Deslorges told the AP.

Tropical Storm Jeanne entered the Caribbean last week, killing seven people in the US territory of Puerto Rico before heading to the Dominican Republic, where it killed at least 18.

The toll is highest in Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world where deforestation has made even light rain deadly. More than 90 percent of Haiti's trees have been chopped down, mostly to make charcoal. Without roots and foliage, there is nothing to hold water back from low-lying towns.

The world's first black republic and the only one to launch a successful rebellion against slavery, Haiti marked 200 years of independence amid political turmoil in January. A month later, a three-month rebellion ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and brought a US-led military force. In May, disaster struck again with floods that killed more than 3,000 people on the Haitian-Dominican border on the island of Hispaniola. *AP*

Yangtze River Bridge turning into a bridge of sighs

By Jim Yardley

NANJING, China—The view from where Chen Si stood on the landmark Yangtze River Bridge captured the frantic, thrumming energy of China. Honking trucks and buses poured over the span as hundreds of barges slid along the dark brown water below. The sweeping downtown skyline rose in the distance.

But Chen watched the people. He noticed a man standing alone, seemingly pensive, and walked toward him in short, quick steps. He watched people unloading from city buses and gauged the slump of their shoulders as they trudged along the sidewalk at the edge of the bridge.

For hours on this recent Sunday morning, Chen watched and waited for that unknowable, unthinkable moment when one of the thousands of people who cross the bridge every day might try to jump off. Chen comes almost every weekend, bringing along a thermos of tea. He has become the bridge's self-appointed guardian angel.

"If I save one person," Chen said, "one is a lot."

By his own count, Chen, who is in his mid-30s, has stopped 42 people from jumping since he began his patrols a year ago. He has talked them down and wrestled them down. He will hike up his pant leg to show a deep laceration from one tussle. He also has watched five people slip out of his grasp and fall to their deaths in the Yangtze.

"It is very easy to recognize," he said of potential jumpers. "A person walks without spirit." *New York Times*

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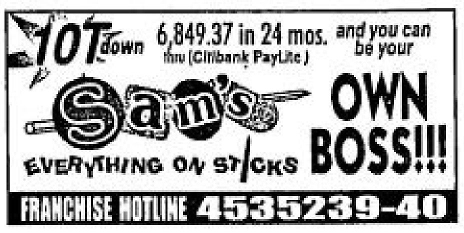

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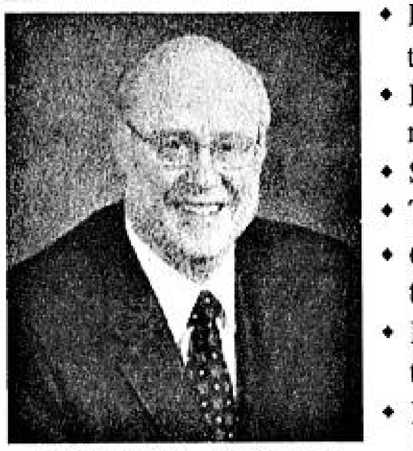

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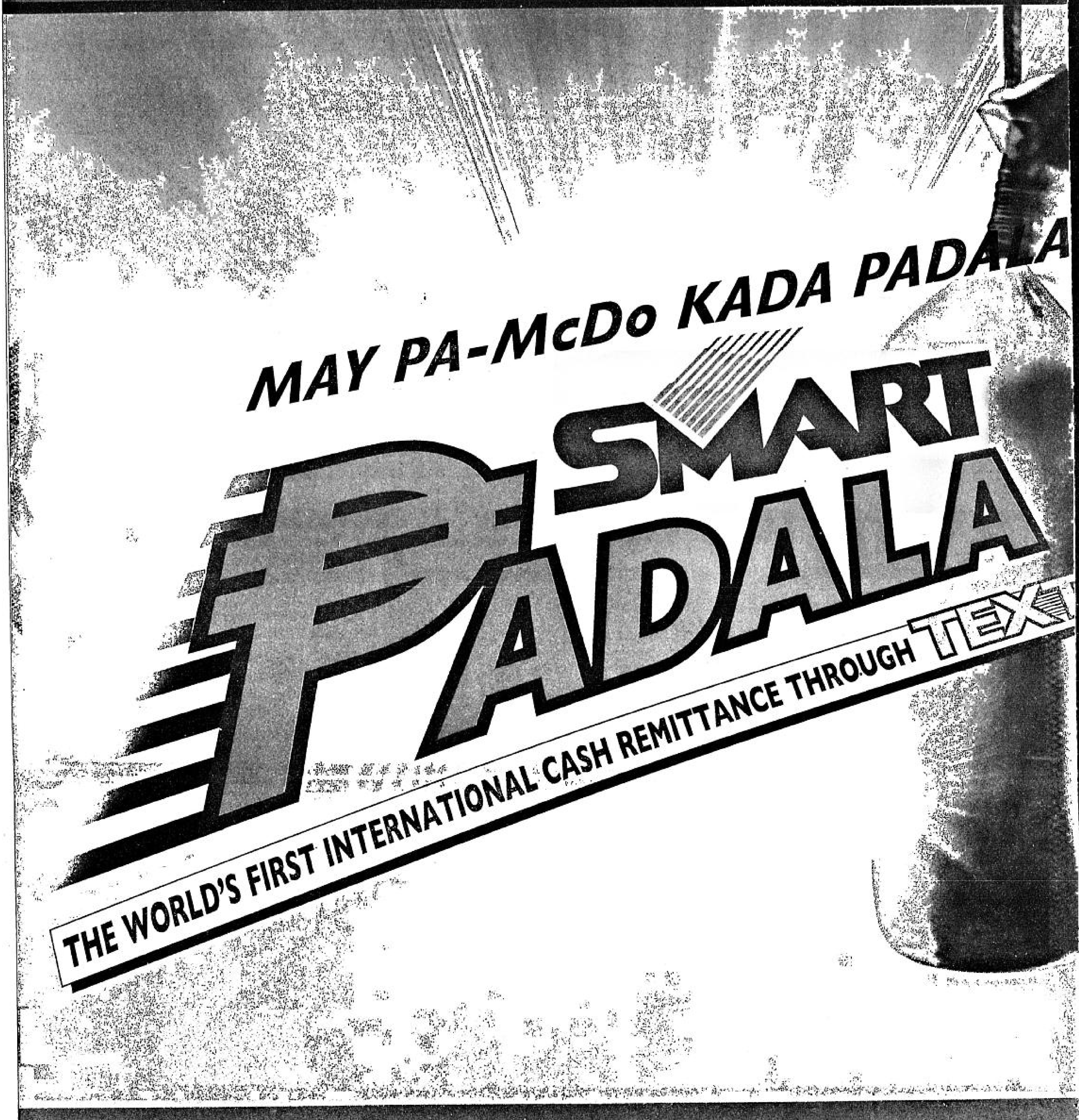
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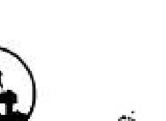

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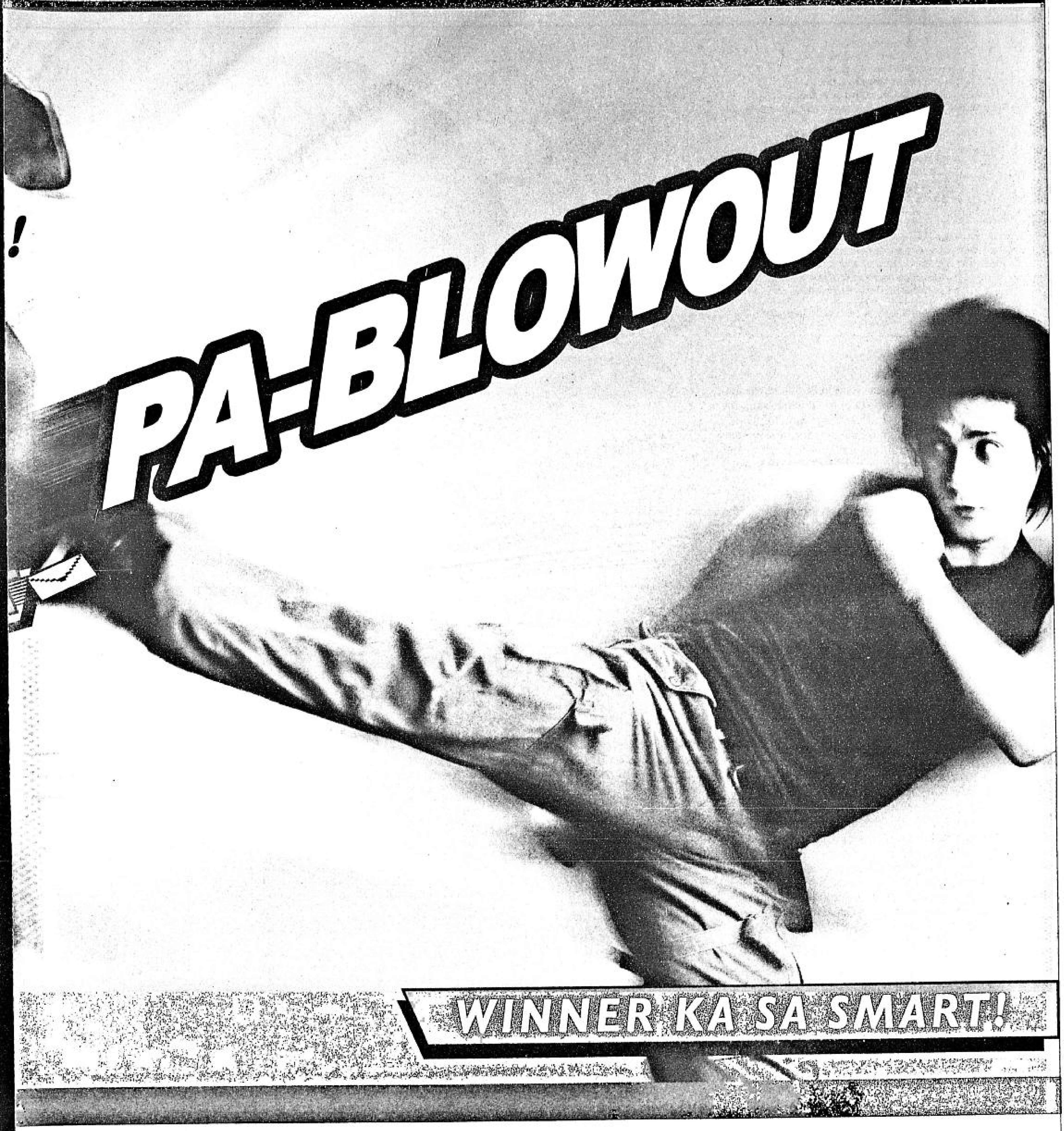

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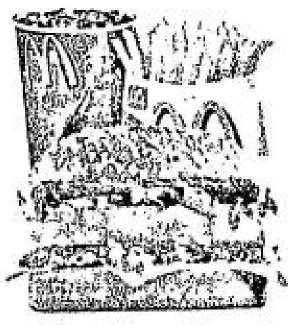
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All wrong

EDITORIAL

ACCORDING to former Sen. Ramon Revilla's own supporters, he can stake his claim to fame on being the "father" of the public works and highways Infrastructure Program Act of 1995, which put order into the disparate public works programs of the government. He also takes credit for having co-authored legislation such as the law providing for retirement pay to qualified sector employees in the absence of any retirement plan, the law mandating representation for the women sector in the Social Security Commission, the law establishing a senior citizens' day center in cities and municipalities, and the law increasing the minimum wage of house helpers. But it should be pointed out that he merely appended his name as a co-sponsor to these acts, and cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, be considered as to have actually authored them.

The fact is that Revilla as a senator was all about public works, at a time when that sector was plagued with scandal after scandal, including scams involving the very agency he has now been appointed to chair: the Public Estates Authority.

The PEA has been hit by so many crooked deals that President Macapagal-Arroyo, with great fanfare, declared two years ago that she would abolish it. And yet, after announcing its abolition, she allowed the agency to continue to function. And now she has put a new man on top: Ramon Revilla Sr.

Given his record of public service, which has been unmarred by genuine accomplishment, it is very tempting to say that any position Revilla is qualified to hold deserves to be abolished. And this is precisely what has happened: Revilla has been deemed by the President qualified to head an office that has already been abolished.

And yet the appointment of the former senator is no laughing matter. It is yet another example of the say-one-thing-and-do-another tendency of the Arroyo administration. It betrays an attitude toward governance that is obsessed with politics to the detriment of professionalism and rationality.

The best that can be said of the President's appointment is that Revilla is being given a face-saving sinecure in return for his political support, and the goodwill of his son who succeeded him in the Senate. A lot worse can be said. Or at the very least, many hard questions need to be posed.

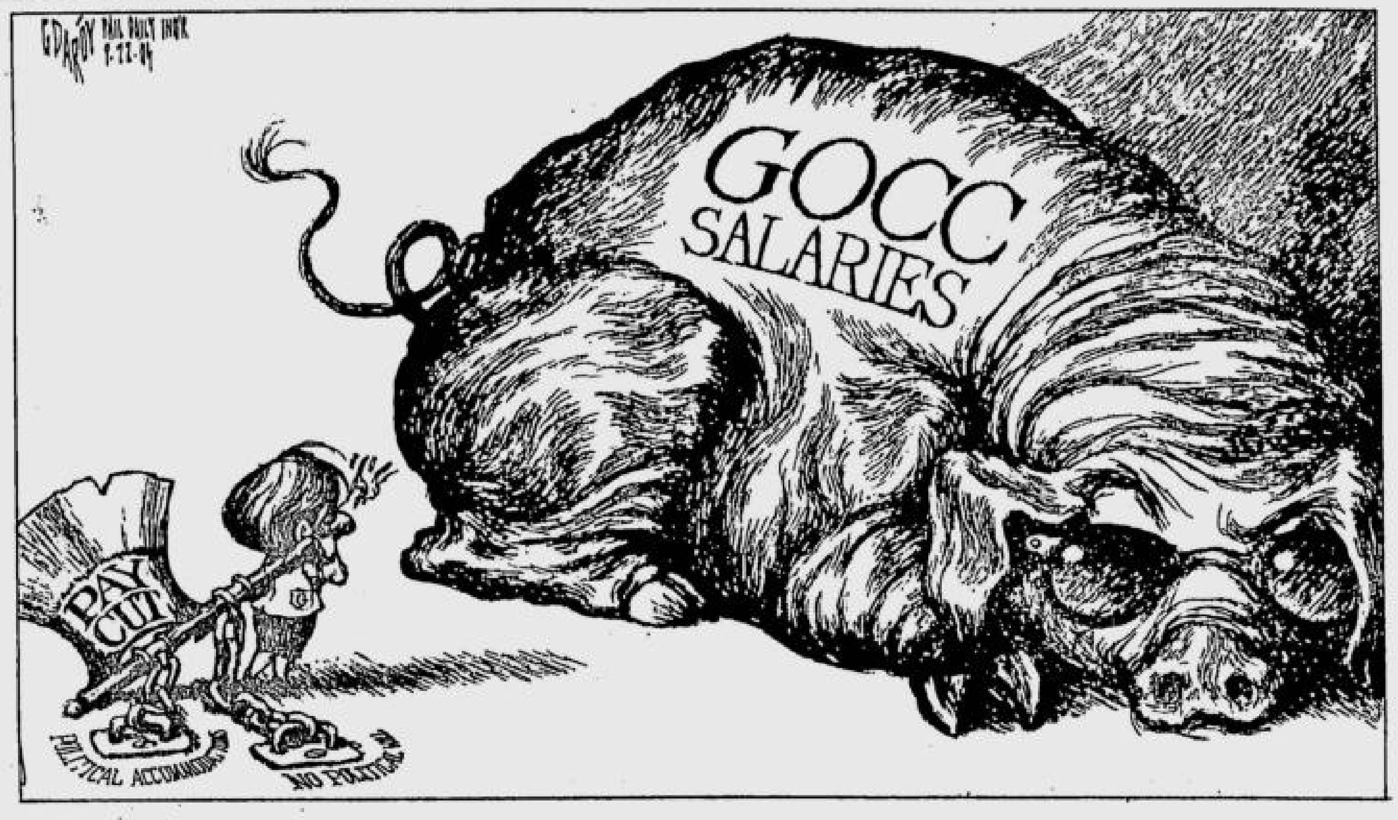
Does it make sense to appoint to a scandal-ridden agency involved in the disposition of public lands and the farming out of contracts, the former head of the Senate public works committee? No, it does not, particularly since even Revilla's own propagandists say he only consolidated the system of public works, but did not do anything to accomplish what that sector really required: a thorough clean-up of the system.

Is there any sense in appointing a man who has been involved in real estate development (Revilla has headed JAB Realty and Development Corp., Sea and River Estate and Southfield Estate) to a government agency that has control over large tracts of public lands, bordering areas near his home province? Assuming that Revilla has been squeaky clean in his own private business dealings, isn't there still a potentially vast conflict of interest in appointing him to head the PEA?

The President would have a Cavite resident, who has dabbled in real estate, heading an agency that still has extensive powers to dabble in real estate development and draw up contracts involving public works. At the very least, this places Revilla in an awkward position, at a time when he should be enjoying his sunset years instead of worrying about potential scandals.

Perhaps Ms Arroyo thinks that Revilla's experience as a senior intelligence officer in the Bureau of Customs from 1965-1972 somehow qualifies him for the job of leading and cleaning up the PEA? Then again, we have to wonder at the wisdom of the appointing authority who believes customs experience—particularly in Cavite, a hotbed of smuggling at the time Revilla was working in the bureau—can teach anyone anything except evading the law. Even if Revilla turned out to be the only honest person associated with the fabulously corrupt Bureau of Customs at the time, such experience was too long ago, and he is now too far advanced in years, to do much good.

This is simply the wrong person for the wrong job, the wrong appointment for the wrong reasons, the wrong move for the wrong agency. It is wrong, in every conceivable respect—except if you respect only the naked abuse of the power to appoint and uphold only the most cynical of motives and criteria for official appointments.



Graft will be worse in a parliamentary system

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

CONGRESSMEN are getting desperate because time is running out on a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution before next year's national elections. Now they are proposing that a transition president with a three-year term, instead of the full term of six years, be elected next year whose primary duty would be to shift to a parliamentary system.

But the term of the president cannot be shortened unless the Constitution is amended first. And any amendment cannot take effect unless it is first ratified by the people in a plebiscite. Which means we will have two polls in a space of eight months: the plebiscite and the national elections. Each of them will cost the taxpayers billions of pesos, an amount we cannot afford and which is not in the 2004 budget submitted by the executive department. Congress cannot increase the budget submitted by the executive.

Furthermore, for this desperate plan to work, a constituent assembly must be in place next month and the plebiscite held next February, only three months before the May elections. There is very little time to prepare for all these.

A survey has shown that the people don't want Charter change, but leave it to the representatives of the people to push what they want instead of what the people want. They don't even know whether the people want a parliamentary system, but that is already the main agenda of a Cha-cha.

The Senate does not want a Consa (constituent assembly) to amend the Constitution but a Con-Con (constitutional convention). As proposed by the Senate, delegates to the Con-Con will be elected at the same time as the other officials in the 2007 polls. The Consa, however, will be composed of, horrors, the present members of Congress.

As Senate President Franklin Drilon said, "It takes two to Cha-cha." But only the House is dancing to the tune. So the congressmen are getting desperate.

The most desperate of all is Speaker Jose de Venecia, the conductor of the orchestra that is the House playing the Cha-cha song. For this is his last hurrah, his last chance to be chief executive. This is also the last hurrah of former President Fidel V. Ramos, who is also for a parliamentary government.

Ramos and De Venecia have four things in common: 1. they are both from Pangasinan; 2. they both want to be chief executive; 3. they both cannot be elected president—Ramos because he is barred by the Constitution from running again, and De Venecia because the people already rejected him when he ran for president and is likely to be rejected again if he runs a second time; and 4. they both want to become chief executive via the back door, by shifting to a parliamentary system, winning seats in parliament, and then running for prime minister.

De Venecia is a known wheeler-dealer famous for hammering coalitions from among different political parties. He is confident he can do it again with the politicians who would be elected to parliament. And that is not hard to do with the present members of Congress, most of whom would likely be elected to parliament. All he has to do is to be generous to the MPs and they will vote for him to be the PM.

Besides that, the PM has to keep the MPs happy, otherwise they could declare a loss of confidence in him and vote to reorganize the government.

Where will the PM get all the money to buy the votes? Where else but from the people. While the MPs get fat, the people will be squeezed dry. You think life is bad now? Wait until we have a parliamentary government.

For in a parliamentary government, there is no system of checks and balances. There will be no Senate to check the MPs, who will be the counterparts of the present congressmen. There will be no executive department to balance the legislature. Parliament will be both the legislature and the executive department. The secretaries or ministers of the executive department will come from among the MPs. And the prime minister, the counterpart of the present president, will also be an MP, elected to his top post by his colleagues. The people will have no part in choosing the person who will rule them.

The government will become an old boys' club even more, controlled by the political party or coalition in power. The party can do almost anything it wants. It will be like a dictatorship with not just one dictator but many. Or like a banana republic with a ruling junta. Imagine having several Marcoses with less brains running the country. That's what we will be in a parliamentary system.

Theoretically, there will be opposition parties who are supposed to fiscalize the administration party. But in the Philippines, political parties don't stand for anything. Parties center around personalities, not ideologies or platforms of government. And opposition politicians tend to fly to the party in power to share in the spoils of victory. So in a Philippine parliament, opposition politicians and parties will join and coalesce with the winning party. Political butterflies will be as plentiful as locusts. Hence, there will be no more opposition parties to check the abuses of the administration party. That is like giving the combination of the safe to a bunch of thieves.

Life may be hard now, but it will be worse in a parliamentary system, especially with the quality, or lack of it, of the present generation of politicians.

Never again?

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

(Conclusion)

UP UNTIL several years ago, I was also confident the public would never allow martial law to happen again. The prospect of martial rule replacing a democratic one seemed ages removed.

The difference between then and now, I said then, was that then people had not experienced martial law—it was an unknown quantity, they were willing to give it a try. Now, they know what martial law can do, they know that things can always get worse than they are. They know authoritarian rule gives neither bread nor freedom, and they are not suckers for punishment. The people themselves, I said, would never allow martial law, or whatever guise it took, to happen again.

Besides, we had just had two Edsas. You can't have any clearer proof about the extent to which people would bestir themselves to end tyranny than that. Both ended the rule of a thug, even if the first rule had arisen by design and the second by accident. Or indeed, as the "Eraptions" showed, by Erap bungling into it with blissful ignorance.

I said, too, in several columns that the people were no longer as docile as they were when Marcos declared martial law. The two Edsas proved they were capable of exploding after being stoked to rage; the second Edsa, in particular, which showed a public capable of spontaneous action. Edsa II had no definite leader, though the usual suspects—Cory Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin and Fidel Ramos—subsequently made a strenuous bid to claim it as their own.

I am not so sure that is the case today. 9/11 demonstrated how brittle the foundations of people power really are. The problem is not stoking the populace to heroism, it is sustaining it. Indeed, the problem is that it is easier to stoke the flames of bigotry than the fires of heroism among the populace. That was what 9/11 did—or what a non-elected president, GMA—did with it. She stoked the flames of this country's most deep-seated biases, which were its love for Americans and hatred of Moros, to justify importing George W. Bush's idiotic version of "war against terror" into these shores.

Overnight, democracy disappeared. One is tempted to say, ironically, because the entire enterprise unfurled the banners of freedom and defense of the democratic way of life. But that in fact was how Marcos justified martial law, too: as a defense of freedom and the democratic way of life. Only the concept of whom they were presumably being defended from changed. Then it was communists, now it was terrorists. But overnight after 9/11, democracy was replaced by the rule of the generals, or at least the militarists. Overnight, the people in charge of the country were no longer the President and her Cabinet, they were the commander in chief and her National Security Council.

How martial the whole country became, I've written about countless times in the past—and got a lot of flak for it. The people who dished out the flak are silent now, in the wake of their idol Bush's monumental blunder in Iraq. Only a year ago, they were shouting their heads off about defending God and flag by bombing the Iraqis to kingdom come.

How martial this country became, you saw in movie and TV fare that extolled martial virtues and even turned the CIA, author of the massacre of Allende et al., into a misunderstood hero. Indeed, how martial this country became you saw in GMA, Roilo Golez, Angelo Reyes and their ilk beside themselves with glee at the US donation of surplus planes and weapons in reward for our joining the "coalition of the willing" like boys with newfound toys.

Nobody protested it. Least of all civil society which stopped being civil and became thoroughly martial with what truly ironically was called "Peace Bonds."

Finally, up until a few years, I was confident we would not see another man who had the same appetite for power or would be as wiling to raise the stakes to have it as Marcos. Cory had given up power, though she could easily have held on to it. Law has never deterred this country from deeds good and bad; it has lawyers precisely to help people skirt it. Ramos wanted to, but gave it up after being felled by the Asian crisis of 1997. His moral authority plunged as swiftly as the peso. And though Erap was a thug, he did not have the same scale of ruthlessness, quite apart from astuteness, as Marcos. He left woefully on a barge on Pasig River bound for San Juan.

Well, true enough no man came along possessing the same ambition and resolve as Marcos. A woman has. And sublimely ironically one birthed by an act of people power. A woman who has recklessly thrown this country itself, quite apart from the OFWs in the Gulf, into the path of harm by an aggressive posture of war, a woman who has unleashed a reign of terror in the name of fighting it, a woman who has shown no compunction for telling the country one thing and doing another.

There are in fact only two things standing in the way of authoritarian rule as a possibility in future. The first is minor, and has to do with Charter change, which would allow the president to stay in power as prime minister. The second is major, which is the only real deterrent against it, and that is the control of the military. That was what Marcos had that nobody else, man or woman, has had since, a complete control of the military. He didn't just have the loyalty of the generals out of gratitude, he had it out of fear. Nobody dared defy him, until much later when he was ravaged by disease. And the wonder of it was that he wasn't a general himself; he was a lawyer. Easy to unleash the rule of the generals, the question is: How do you prevent a general from ruling himself?

But the way things are, with dire and uncertain times having us in their grip, you never know.

Never again?
Guess again.

Three lost decades

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE 32ND anniversary of the declaration of martial law was marked last Tuesday with the usual theme: Never Again. Recollections centered on this theme are useful to remind us of the sordid and abominable aspects of martial law, the memory of which might instruct our people to avoid repeating the disaster and tragedy of Sept. 21, 1972.

The events associated with martial law should not be allowed to remain as "frozen episodes" of a nation's history. One purpose of the yearly flashback is to drill into the consciousness of the younger generations the lessons of Sept. 21, of how it is to live under a dictatorship. Another is to fortify the memories of the generations who went through the agonizing experiences of martial law.

The "martial law babies" must be in their 30s today. They are the ones who grew up with the draconian rigors of the dictatorship and they keep vivid memories about that era. That generation now occupies pivotal positions of leadership in politics, in the economy, in business and the social life of the nation. Their decisions and inputs in decision-making cannot but be shaped by their recollections of the dictatorship.

Recollections are not unique to any nation, and the post-World War II generation, especially in Europe, has never ceased being reminded that "Never Again" will it happen. But the focus of rewinding the footage of retrospective documentary has been, especially in Europe, on the atrocities and horrors of Hitler's Nazi dictatorship, the total devastation of World War II and the Holocaust. This remembrance is not just a nostalgic journey to the past.

Similarly, remembrance of martial law is not a nostalgia trip for those who suffered under the dictatorship. If the purpose of remembrance is to indulge nostalgia, recollections do not serve as a learning experience.

Each year, we are reminded of the same theme: Never Again. Martial law is a different experience to each one who lived under it. So, it might be useful to ask ourselves: Never Again, what?

Martial law was an epochal event, a turning point in the history of the country. It marked the dismantling of a political system, a democratic polity, albeit a seriously flawed one. Remembrance has been refocused to some of the more appalling aspects of the martial law years, for example, the atrocities of the regime, human rights violations, the disappearances of targets of repression, the economic plunder perpetrated by the dictatorship, the economic disaster stemming from economic policies determined by crony capitalism, and the unprecedented scale of corruption. These are the more obvious landmarks and legacies of dictatorship which basically is a system that fosters abuse of power leading to other disastrous consequences.

However, the perpetuation of memory built on these more obvious aspects of the dictatorship tends to narrow our perspectives in remembering martial law on a range of issues centered on the theme of Never Again. We tend to forget that martial law was not just a landmark of the breakdown of Philippine democracy in the 1970s. It is lost to us that Ferdinand Marcos demolished democracy in 1972 to make way for the introduction of authoritarianism that was riding a wave sweeping most of Asia in that decade—to mention the more outstanding models, the People's Republic of China under the Communist Party, Lee Kuan Yew's soft authoritarianism in Singapore, Suharto's dictatorship in Indonesia, and the authoritarian regime in Malaysia. We were a latecomer to Southeast Asia's authoritarian club.

In most of these Asian countries with authoritarian regimes, authoritarianism was not just a weapon for stifling democratic impulses but even more so it was a tool for economic expansion and development. When Marcos declared martial law, he was not just concerned with crushing the communist insurgency and destroying the political infrastructure of democracy which allows the political opposition to obstruct government initiatives and to check its corruption and abuses. Marcos had a larger purpose than these. The larger purpose was to use martial law as the facility and stage for economic takeoff and development, emulating the models of economic success of our neighbors. Park Chung-hee's South Korea and Lee Kuan Yew's Singapore were shining examples of economic growth taking place under a climate of political stability and unhindered by political opposition in a democratic ambience.

The point to remember is that martial law was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity given to a Filipino leader to build the economy and make it march with the pace taken by other authoritarian regimes in Asia.

Because of his excesses, abuses and corruption, Marcos squandered that opportunity. Martial law in the Philippines was a failed political experiment as an engine to drive radical change and economic growth and development.

The 14 years from Sept. 21, 1972 to the restoration of democracy in February 1986 were years of squandered opportunities and wasted national resources.

For the past 18 years after Edsa I, we have been trying to expel the demons of martial law, believing that their expulsion might not only help us avoid the errors of the past but also that the restoration of democracy might build a stronger economy and stable political system.

Unless we change our perspective about remembering martial law, we will continue to get unhelpful lessons from it. Unless we know what we want not to be repeated when we say "Never Again," remembering martial law will remain a futile yearly ritual of exorcising the demons of martial law. The thing to remember is that 1972 to 2004 spanned three decades of lost opportunities and of lessons not learned.

An AD/HD child in school

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DITAS Martelino has three children, the eldest of whom, Celine, has been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), while her youngest, Kevin, has been found to have AD/HD or Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder.

Because ADD does not manifest in the same disruptive and impulsive behavior as AD/HD, Ditas says it was Kevin who was diagnosed first, after his teachers in his old school complained that the boy "would wriggle on the floor, hurt his classmates and move around the classroom excessively." She and her husband also noticed that Kevin was always afraid of going to school, crying as they reached the school gate and offering all sorts of excuses not to attend classes.

The school guidance counselor referred them to a developmental pediatrician who diagnosed him as having AD/HD. The doctor also told them that Kevin thought of himself as a "very, very bad boy," which was what his teacher told him when she seated him in a corner away from the rest of his class. Later, Kevin confided even worse incidents, such as the time the teacher locked him up in a dark closet and told his classmates to hold the door shut; the time a teacher grabbed him by his shirt collar and warned him not to "tell stories" to his parents; and the many times he was pinched and hit on the head ("*binabatukan*").

Ditas and her husband decided to pull Kevin out of the school, even if it was the middle of the school year, and demanded that their son be allowed to meet his academic requirements by working with a tutor at home. They then enrolled him in a new school, but only after working with administrators and teachers, "coaching" them on ways to cope with Kevin's inattention, hyperactivity and impulsive actions. Today, Kevin is 11, in Grade 5, and an honor student to boot!

* * *

IT was only after reading up on AD/HD that Ditas says she suspected Celine, who was then 13, of having ADD. Her teachers at the all-girls school she went to told her repeatedly that Celine showed "promise," but seemed unwilling to explore her potential, failing to finish projects and "tuning out" during classroom lectures.

With the developmental pediatrician, Ditas worked out a strategy to boost Celine's self-esteem and improve her grades, especially during her senior year in high school when the school administration warned that her grade average wasn't high enough to warrant her graduation. Fearing the massive blow to her daughter's self-esteem, Ditas closely monitored Celine's homework and exam reviews, "breaking up" the classroom content into smaller bits of information before her attention wandered.

"And what do you know, we were able to raise her average by several points above the passing grade!" Ditas exults. Celine is now a freshman at Miriam College and wants to major in mass communications. "We felt that she would function best in a small college where her teachers could better monitor her," Ditas explains their choice of college.

* * *

TOGETHER with developmental professionals, educators and other parents of children with AD/HD, Ditas regularly takes part in "school caravans," during which a team from the AD/HD Society of the Philippines meets with teachers and administrators from a cluster of schools and some interested parents, to talk about AD/HD and ways by which the school and home could work together to "manage" a child with the condition.

Sometimes, Celine delivers a personal testimony, which seems to go over well with the parents, reassuring them that even a child with AD/HD can cope with school work well enough to go on to college. Once, a public school teacher asked Celine how, with more than 50 students in her classroom, she could be expected to cope with a child with AD/HD. "Just have her sit somewhere in the middle where you can easily watch her and tap her on the shoulder if she is becoming too noisy or restless," was Celine's simple advice.

* * *

COOPERATION among parents, school and doctor is essential, says Ditas. Many times, the mothers of children with AD/HD say, school administrators and teachers resist admitting or keeping a child with AD/HD in their school, feeling it will entail too much extra work on their part, or result in lower academic standards and bending of rules.

Well, some flexibility may indeed be necessary. A child with AD/HD, advice experts, should not be seated near a spot in the classroom which is a "center of activity," such as the doorway, window or trash can. The child should also be allowed to stand up, walk around the classroom or even leave it from time to time, as long as reasonable limits are set and his classmates are not disturbed.

"We're not asking for special treatment," asserts Dada Lorenzana-Santiago, whose story was told yesterday, "just some cooperation from the school to manage our children's condition." Though some children with AD/HD may also exhibit other learning disabilities, on average, they are just as, if not more, intelligent than their peers. They are also, agree the mothers, "personable, kind, compassionate" though they note that "they can also be manipulative." (But then, what child isn't, right?)

Sean Cura, who has AD/HD, also noted in an interview the "positive" side of his condition: "I can draw while listening to music or studying. I don't get tired easily." People with AD/HD are the ultimate masters of multi-tasking!

Parents, educators and medical professionals interested in learning more about AD/HD are invited to take part in the Second National Conference on AD/HD from Oct. 21-23 at The Tent at the Plaza Car Park, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center. For inquiries, call the Conference Secretariat at 726-1550; 726-0606; 927-3463; or 426-6001 loc. 4649.

The devil and his works

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ONE of the worst movies I have seen lately is the prequel to "The Exorcist." Friends said I would have been better off watching Kris Aquino in "Feng Shui."

Demonic possession may be something most Westerners would consign to the Middle Ages (some books call the same period the "Dark Ages"), but it remains real and current to most Filipinos. TV news regularly cover some possessed schoolgirl being tormented with crucifixes, rosaries and holy water. Most of the time, however, the spirit that speaks through these schoolchildren rarely claims to be the devil but some other less but playful form.

One cannot imagine a TV crew being face to face with pure evil, but I remember a segment of the popular TV show "60 Minutes" airing what was reputedly the first televised exorcism in the United States. In some hick town in Florida, there was a Greek girl possessed by a number of evil spirits. She manifested most of the symptoms exhibited by Linda Blair in "The Exorcist": speaking in different voices and languages, threats, profanity, etc. To cut the long story short, the exorcist was able to speak to all the spirits and made them agree to leave the body of the girl at the end of the prescribed Roman Catholic rite of exorcism. While the exorcist ordered all the spirits to depart, there was some wailing and gnashing of teeth, and then from the depths a small voice cried out, "*Sandali lang! Sandali lang!*" The exorcist engaged this spirit in conversation and convinced the whole demonic group to leave. I couldn't believe my ears. Even in the supernatural world, a Filipino was making life more complicated than it should be.

When the exorcist was interviewed afterwards, parts of the exorcism were re-run and in one of the scenes I could hear that same little voice shouting invectives at the priest and adding, "*Bakla ka... Bakla ka!*" Was the demon telling the truth? Was it able to see through the sins of the exorcist? We will never know. Nobody spoke Filipino in the room, so no one was bothered.

How did this little Greek girl in Florida learn our language? Was the demon Pinoy, or did she learn it from her *yaya*? The demon was described as short, dark, with curly hair! I will not comment further on this matter and leave you to experts like columnist Jaime Licauco for a more enlightening discussion on demonic possession.

What intrigues me is that if you read early friar accounts of the Philippines and Filipinos, you will see the devil roaming about the archipelago and making life difficult for missionaries. If you open the index to the 55-volume compilation of documents compiled by Blair and Robertson, called "The Philippine Islands 1493-1898," and check under the heading "Devil," you will find a lot of references subdivided into these various topics: his influence over the natives; worshipped and invoked; addressed by his priests and takes possession of them; sacrifices to; dedication to; seen in dreams or visions; impersonated; deceives people; torments human beings; his tricks and witchcraft, etc. All this makes for absorbing reading, but why was the devil more real to people in the 17th century than in our times? Was life then so simple or simple-minded that the devil could be blamed for everything bad?

In our secular and modern times, have we taken more responsibility for evil in the world that we forgot the man with the horns, the tail and the pitchfork? Maybe evil comes in a different form and shape today?

In the Dominican Diego de Aduarte's "Historia de la provincia del Sancto Rosario...en Philippinas (Manila, 1640)" are accounts of how the members of his order converted the Filipinos from their heathen ways and how they battled with an old religion that they considered to be the work of the devil. In some accounts, the devil actually walked abroad and spoke through people who often heard but did not see him. Often the devil worked through the pre-colonial shamans or *babaylan* who were not acknowledged as leaders of a different religion but were branded as witches, their gods devils, demons and evil spirits. Often illness was attributed to the devil and so a cure was interpreted as God's conquest of evil. One account says:

"Still there is one miracle that is almost universal in all these regions; this is, that when the devil torments some Indian, under the influence of witches with whom he has made an agreement to torment those whom they desire to harm, he loses his power before the command of the religious. The Indians fear witchcraft so that they do not dare deny the witches anything they ask; and thus they become masters of the property, the food, and the persons of all Indians. The devil is driven out by the very presence of the religious, while in their absence he is kept away by merely having the sick hold a scapular. All this is accomplished without exorcisms, except the command in the name of the Lord that they shall cease their tormenting. In many cases, miracles of healing have been wrought by baptism, or by confession."

When one sees how Filipinos in the 21st century still use crucifixes, rosaries, scapulars, etc. in their homes, offices, cars and persons, we wonder if we have really changed very much in the past 400 years.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Cultural liberty

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

DOES culture affect development?

Over the last hundred years or so, social scientists have debated this link. Max Weber, for example, wrote, almost a hundred years ago, that there was an "elective affinity" between Protestantism and the development of capitalism. In the period after World War II, many social scientists were recruited by development agencies to look into cultural reasons behind underdevelopment.

In the Philippines, certain values such as *hiya* and *utang na loob*, or even the entire "flawed culture" have been blamed for our underdevelopment.

Now the UN Development Programme (UNDP) has come out with still another exploration of the links between culture and development. Their latest Human Development Report is different though in that it rejects the idea that culture dooms certain countries to failure.

Multiculturalism

While in the past social scientists were busy trying to describe cultures in a homogenous way—for example, most Filipinos carrying the value of *bahala na*, or most Filipinos using their nose to point—the UNDP emphasizes that even within a culture, there is much diversity and variation. Even more importantly, it is this diversity, and the freedom to practice and develop that diversity, that are crucial for development.

What is the link here? I'm going to give some of my own ideas as an anthropologist who has worked in development for several years. Cultural liberty and diversity means tapping into a greater reservoir of talents and skills. This even includes worldviews, how we look at a problem. For example, we often end up being on the receiving end of development plans from the United States, formulated by bureaucrats in Washington. Yet the solutions to some of the most difficult problems in many of our communities may come from indigenous knowledge, from the "natives" who know their own environment.

The extent of "cultural liberty" depends on a country's multicultural policies, described by the UNDP as those "that recognize differences, champion diversity and promote cultural freedoms, so that all people can choose to speak their language, practice their religion, and participate in shaping their culture—so that all people can choose to be who they are."

The UNDP emphasizes that it is important to develop these multicultural policies because in two-thirds of the world's countries, there are minority groups that make up more than 10 percent of the population. Just watch the "American Idol" competitions and you can already see how "American" has become so diverse, including any number of ethnicities, including Filipinos.

The Philippines, too, is extremely diverse, culturally. I walked through one densely populated street in Sampaloc the other night and heard Ilokano, Cebuano, Waray, Ilonggo, Kapampangan, Maranao... and Hokkien Chinese. There were, I am sure, other Filipino languages I couldn't quite identify.

Language isn't the only marker for ethnic diversity. There are differences in clothing, food, architecture, even body language (I've always felt Visayan groups are more alive with their body movements).

Another aspect of cultural diversity is religious affiliation. We say Roman Catholicism is the majority religion in the country, but there are in fact variations to being Roman Catholic. You have, for example, Mike Velarde's El Shaddai, which many people think is a separate sect but is actually still, for now at least, part of the Catholic Church. Certainly, El Shaddai has its own culture, its own variations on the practice of Roman Catholicism, some of which are looked upon with some discomfort by the bishops—the famous upturned umbrellas, for example, to receive heaven's blessings.

'Isang bansa, isang diwa?'

The leaders of many young nations, the Philippines included, have tended to subscribe to the idea that the way to development comes by uniting the country, and by trying to create a common culture.

This approach is best epitomized by a slogan used during Marcos' time: "*Isang bansa, isang diwa.*" The slogan is difficult to translate but more or less refers to the idea of having one country and one spirit. How is this *diwa*, or spirit, to be brought about? We see this even in textbooks, with all the references to national symbols, the national flag, a national bird, a national flower...the list goes on and on.

The problem with this approach is that a choice of one symbol may displace many other possibilities. Thus, when Tagalog was chosen as the basis for Filipino, it provoked negative reactions from Cebuanos, who rightly pointed out that there were actually more native speakers of Cebuano than Tagalog.

More than holidays

The first chapter of the Human Development Report talks about the need to be able to practice one's own religion, to speak one's language, to celebrate one's ethnic heritage, "without fear of ridicule or punishment or diminished opportunity."

It's a point we should reflect on. Just think of the stereotyped biases Tagalogs have against the "Bisaya," the noun becoming a pejorative adjective. The Bisaya will often fight back but with smaller ethnic groups, a child may grow up ashamed of his or her culture and suppress it. That is a loss for the entire country because that takes away from the national pool of knowledge we could otherwise have.

Even worse, the suppression of particular cultures further reinforces biases against the discriminated groups because we fear the unknown. And as biases grow, resentments may spill over into violent civil strife, as we see with our Muslims.

Promoting cultural liberty takes many forms. For example, the President has included the start and end of Ramadan as national holidays, recognizing Muslims are now everywhere in the Philippines and would appreciate those holidays.

But declaring Ramadan a holiday should also be an opportunity to educate non-Muslims about Islam. I worry that Ramadan, and Islam, will remain exotic and distant unless the mass media help to explain to people what the spirit of the fasting is all about, and how people of other faiths might want to relate to that special season for Muslims. I'd also like to see a recognition of Ramadan incorporated into work policies, to make employers more understanding of the needs of fasting Muslims. The non-government organizations (NGO) I work with are conscious, too, about avoiding Ramadan when scheduling a training workshop or seminar. (This year, Ramadan more or less runs from from Oct. 15 to Nov. 14.)

There's much more, of course, to the practice of cultural liberty, but we should start with our homes, pointing out to our children the beauty of cultural diversity in our own environment and making sure they don't tease other children because they're of a different race, ethnicity or religion.

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Country needs more Ben Abadianos

I READ Ceres P. Doyo's column titled, "Ben of the 'lumads'." (PDI, 8/26/04) I was so excited reading it because Benjamin Abadiano, the Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Emergent Leadership, was my good friend and classmate at Xavier University 15 years ago. We were together in many subjects under the anthropologist, Dr. Erlinda Burton, as well as under other professors in sociology. He was also our president in the Socio-Anthro Society.

I really want to congratulate him personally for his remarkable achievement but, unfortunately, I don't have his address. I hope that by having this letter in your column or in the Letters' section of the INQUIRER, I will be able to extend to him my hurray!

To me, Ben is a man worthy of emulation. His Christ-like attitude, especially his passion and obsession to help the poor, the marginalized, and the downtrodden has inspired many, not only in the ethnic community but also in the civilized society. He is soft-spoken, simple and humble but brilliant and full of compassion. It seems that he never gets tired in giving service to humanity. Besides, instead of using the money awarded to him for his personal gain, he used it for the welfare of his people—the *lumad* of Mindoro. I think, we need more "Bens" in the Cabinet, in the Senate, in the House of Representatives, in the courts and in all sectors of government in order to make this country great again.

Ben is truly an extraordinary person for he possesses the love of Christ, the missionary spirit of St. Paul, the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job and the golden heart of King David. His life is a perfect example of what it means to be a true and selfless Christian. God bless, classmate. May your tribe increase!

—DR. ROMEO L. LORENZO,
chair, Social Science Department
and professor, Graduate School,
University of Iloilo, Iloilo City

SSS baloney?

SOCIAL Security System president Corazon de la Paz has announced that contributions from members rose by 15 percent in the first half of 2004, indicating that the SSS' financial condition has improved. According to SSS vice president Felipe Cariño, at present, only 16 active paying members are supporting one retiree, three less than the 19 paying members per retiree back in 2000. (PDI, 9/3/04)

This is pure baloney. Why is it that SSS pensioners never received an annual 10-percent increase in their monthly pension from 2001 to 2004? The present administration is totally ignoring SSS pensioners. During the terms (two and a half years) of President Estrada and SSS president Carlos Arellano, pensioners received two successive 10-percent annual increases.

If it's true that the members' contributions have increased, why is the SSS planning to increase its members' contributions by 2 percent?

—ELIGIO M. PASTORIN,
91 Paraiso St., Parang, Marikina City

'Scarcity mentality'

THE "TWO-CHILD POLICY" (House Bill No. 16) proposed by Rep. Edcel Lagman will not serve the best interest of the country because it is anchored on the mind-frame of scarcity that considers high population growth as a barrier to development, giving rise to a "contraceptive" mentality.

Lagman's bill actually looks at a big population as the crucial cause of poverty and misery. It sees the third child-to-be in a family as another mouth to feed that will lower the nation's GDP growth rate.

If a third child is deemed as a negative value, which is worth less than zero, how could the Lagman bill regard people as human beings whose dignity, liberty, freedom of choice and rights to life and development the state must ensure?

The bill proposes that the state rewards with incentives "ideally" sized two-child families. This implies that larger families must be marginalized due to inaccessible benefits that they could very well deserve. What if the third or the fourth child, the fifth or the sixth, is a potential Ryan Cayabyab, a Josette Biyo, or a Patricia Evangelista?

In population management, our politicians would profit immensely if they assume the outlook of a good entrepreneur. As the entrepreneur sees possibilities of selling his products, he mobilizes people to produce them so he can meet the product demand. He effects a synergy among individuals creating other possibilities of earning wealth. If Henry Sy "stopped at two" customer sales, there would be no Shoe Mart. If he "stopped at two" SM branches established, there would be no Megamall. Perhaps Sy did not even think of real estate development and property management during the early years of SM Carriedo, when he was buying at a bargain shoe raw materials and other merchandise.

Recently, the Population Research Bureau projected a stifling of growth by 2050 among many large industrialized nations due to low birth rates, struggling economies and curbs on immigration. If we agree to effect a two-child policy per family, the Philippines in no time would disappear in the economic map. We will surely lose our work force and our resident consumers. We may have been left behind by the export bus in the past decades, but we have undeniably survived due to the thriving domestic market and a resilient underground economy.

The abundance paradigm contrasts with the scarcity or contraceptive mentality that the Lagman bill adopts. The essence of the abundance mind-set is having the spirit of creative enterprise that believes in the dynamism of people. It considers how each family can build wealth through its members' combined capacity to create. Having a paradigm of abundance is the hallmark of first-rate entrepreneurs and magnanimous leaders.

Lagman's proposal does not offer a real solution to poverty. It is a "quick fix" remedy. And with quick fixes, the problem aggravates in time, with its repair cost becoming exorbitant.

—MEL E. MARANAN,
3 San Diego, Bauan, Batangas

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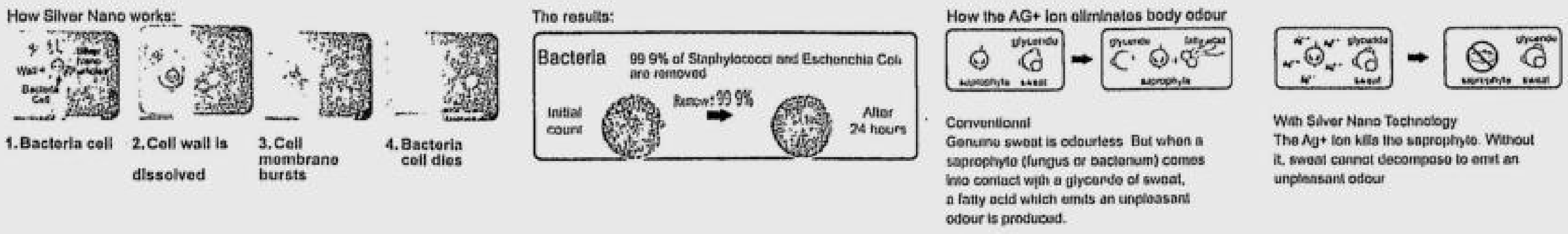
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INQBOX
Question of the Week

Some militant party-list representatives have protested the reduction of their pork barrel (from 35 million to 10 million pesos each) for the latter half of 2004. Is their protest valid? Why or why not?

Texters hus messages R printd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wil each receiv a 'Guyito stuffd toy! Ü*

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

EVESPIRITU

BAGUIO children enjoy their nutritious bread in more ways than one.

Baguio feeding program reaches more children

By Desiree Caluza
Baguio City

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD Joshua Young knows that a good heart can save the world and uplift everyone's spirits. So when the story on a local school feeding program using the vitamin-fortified bread Nutribun came out in the INQUIRER last month, Joshua immediately called members of Kataguan Watch, the program's sponsors, to let them know that he was interested in sponsoring breakfast for at least 100 first year students of Baguio City National High School.

Kataguan Watch has started the "First Meal Project" for public school students in Baguio City who are either underweight or poor to improve their weight and their eating habits.

At 6 a.m. on Sept. 3, Joshua, wearing his Boy Scout uniform, went to the BCNHS' home economics building to help prepare the meal.

He was accompanied by his father and his 9-year-old brother, Daniel, to serve three pots of *arroz caldo* and pandesal. The bread had egg fillings which Young and his mother prepared that morning.

Joshua and Daniel took turns in serving the soup and bread to the students with Chiqui Torres, coordinator of the First Meal Project, before they attended their classes at the Baguio Patriotic School at 7:30 am.

Joshua also prepared another container of egg filling that would go with Torres' version of Nutribun.

"After I read the Nutribun story in the INQUIRER, I felt that I had to join this program because I wanted to share (my blessings)," Joshua told the INQUIRER.

It was not his first time to sponsor a charitable work for children, his parents said.

In December last year, Joshua hosted a Christmas party and distributed gifts for the street children of Ermita in Manila, and was an active member of Youth Aid, a group of children volunteers who spend a day's work and donate P200 each to institutions that take care of children suffering from cancer.

Sharing

Sharing has become a part of Joshua's spiritual calling when he was being raised in Manila with his other siblings.

On Sundays, Joshua would give 10 percent of his weekly allowance to their church, the Varsity Christian Fellowship.

Joshua said his action was guided by the strong Christian values that his parents taught him and the importance of community service that he learned from the Scouting movement.

"I feel good because we are reaching out to other people. Even in a little way, I know I can help. I want these children to have a bright

BAGUIO/A18

Crow Valley birds need protection, say experts

By Jo Clemente
Capas, Tarlac

IT IS not the Crow Valley firing range that makes Camp O'Donnel in Capas, Tarlac, an important area but its real crows, hawks and other bird species that residents fear they may not see anymore soon.

Unknown to many, including most Tarlaqueños, the 31,879-hectare reservation that used to be part of the United States military bases in Central Luzon, had been identified as one of the 117 important bird areas (IBA) in the Philippines and among the 206 areas of the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priorities (PBCP) under the Philippine biodiversity conservation priority setting program.

The area is described as "extremely high critical" for conservation.

The program presents the consensus of more than 300 expert scientists and decision makers from more than 100 local and international institutions on the most biologically important areas in the Philippines. Its results are meant to influence conservation and development planning across the archipelago.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (DENR-PAWB), the biodiversity conservation program of the University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies (BCP-UPCIDS) and the Conservation International initiated the program.

Where birds are

As a boy, 76-year-old Reynaldo Martinez, a retired government employee, used to graze cattle at Camp O'Donnel "because it is where grass grows in abundance."

That was in 1946. Evacuating for safety during the Japanese occupation, his family moved from the Tarlac town center to Barangay Moriones at the western and mountainous end of the province.

Martinez recalls they traversed the mountain trail on their cattle-driven cart, leaving Moriones at dawn and arriving at Camp O'Donnel at daybreak.

JO CLEMENTE

AN EAGLE, one of the birds that make O'Donnel home and sanctuary

O'Donnel then housed the 13th wing of the US Air Force, while its forested area was used for military exercises.

In those days, he says, it was "ordinary knowledge" to know the different kinds of birds, how they behaved and the sound they made.

The *patirik-tirik* (woodpecker), he says, was a dark-colored bird that pecked on tree trunks. It was not every day that he saw one but it was one of the birds he saw in his youth.

He describes the *denas* (wood swallows) as *palay*-eating birds that came in small groups. Some were gray, others a bit yellowish. Smaller than the *denas* was the *pipit*, he says.

In September, Martinez recalls that another type of bird called *tarat* (brown shrite) came in droves. He remembers another bird, the *martines* (mynah), which had black or dark gray with a streak of white on both wings that fed on carabao ticks. Then there were also the low flying birds like *tagak* (heron) and *kulyawan* (oriole).

Dr. Hermes Frias, former Capas mayor and now municipal administrator, confirms this.

"Even to this day, crows still fly over the area. I don't know if these are hawks or young eagles, but these birds regularly visit our fishponds in Barangay Maruglo and dive for their share (of fish)," he says.

This is also observed in Barangay Dungan in nearby Concepcion town where fishponds are located.

According to residents, the birds flock at their ponds and prey on their growing fishes every day.

Frias says even the *tikling* had made his farm a regular breeding area because he would always find their eggs all over.

In his youth, Frias remembers having seen a green *kulasisi* (parakeet) once and more of the *pugo* (wild quail) and *bato-bato* (wild doves).

Like Martinez, Frias saw this part of O'Donnel when its forests were still thick and wild pine trees grew along the banks of the O'Donnel River.

Biodiversity

"Then, we also have here wild boar (*baboy damo*) and deer (*usa*). There's nothing of that now. The forests I saw then are now planted with food crops like *gabi* (yam)," Frias says.

When they were young, they also loved to catch birds but in a different way, Martinez says.

To catch a *tarat*, they made an *umang*. This is a piece of stick loosely tied to a string with the first loop of the knot wide enough to catch a bird by its feet.

When the bird alights on the stick, the stick falls off and the feet of the bird will be trapped in the loop and its weight will tighten the knot, Martinez says.

But officials say it is not the *umang* that drives the birds away —some even to extinction—but the continued destruction of their natural habitat (forests, mangroves, coastal areas or the wetlands).

These habitats are not only for birds but other life forms that make them important biological areas that should be protected, they say.

IBAs are selected based on internationally accepted criteria that count the number of globally threatened species, the number of restricted range species (found within a breeding threshold range of 50,000 square kilometers) and the number of congregatory species in the area.

The country has 576 bird species, 34 percent (195 species) of which are endemic or species unique to the Philippines. At least 74 species are considered threatened. Of the threatened species, 79 percent (59 species) are endemic.

About 395 species are resident breeders as they nest and incubate their eggs in the country in contrast to non-resident breeders, which are migratory birds or vagrants.

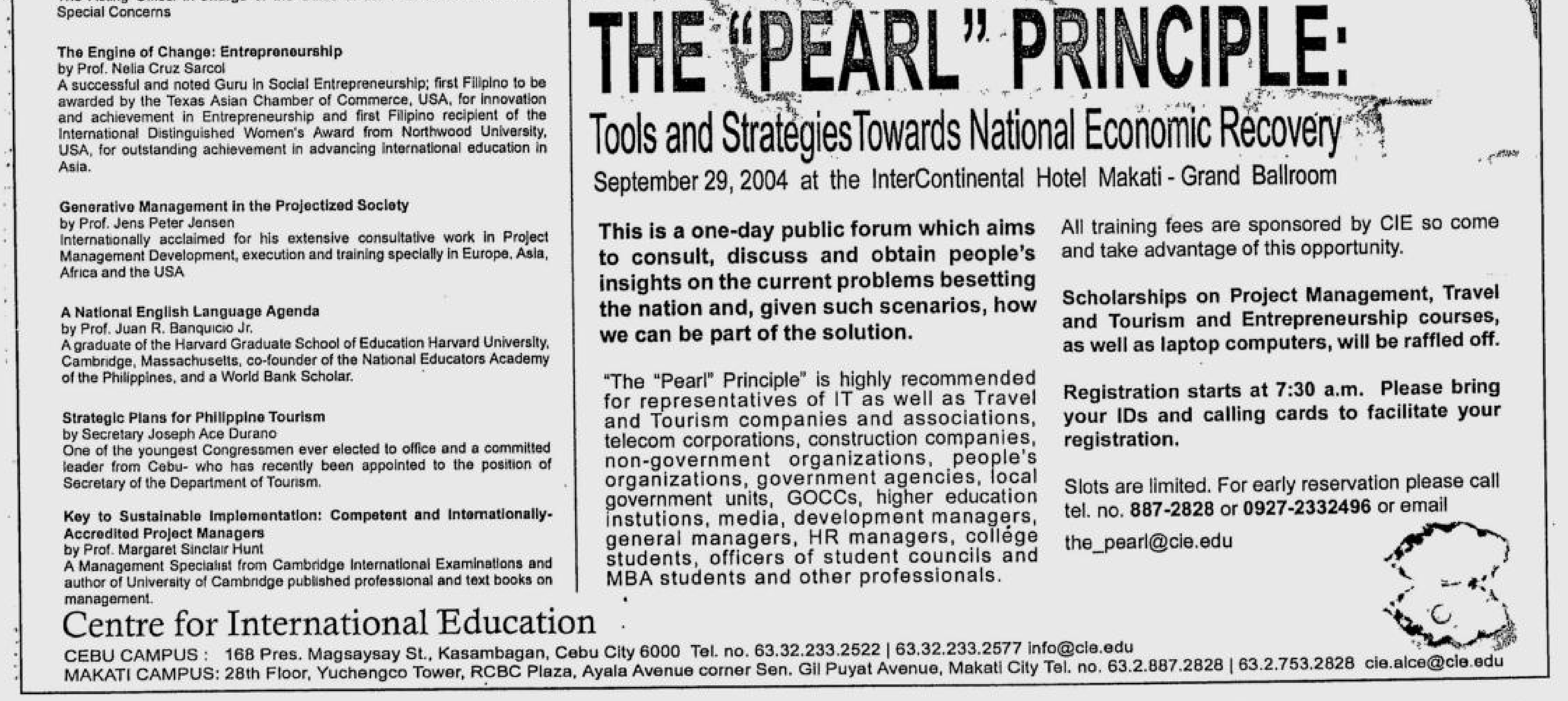
Neil Aldrin Mallari, wildlife biologist and ornithologist, says birds are barometers of the state of the country's natural environment.

"As they are everywhere and have the most advance data base, they are the clearest indicators we know at the moment. When bird species are threatened or endangered to extinction, that can tell us in what state or condition the natural habitat has become," Mallari says.

The PBCP report describes the Philippines as one of the few countries in the world that is both a "megadiversity" country and a "biodiversity hotspot."

Megadiversity is a term used to characterize a set of 17 countries

CROW VALLEY/A18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Baguio feeding program reaches more children

From page A17

future that they can look forward to, that they have something that they can hold on to even though they are facing a lot of hardships in their lives," he said.

"When I grow up, I can do more of what I am doing now. I am only one and I cannot do everything, but I know I can do something that can change the world," Joshua, who aspires to become a doctor or an architect, said.

He said he has friends who are also willing to do charitable work for other children.

"I also hope that grown-ups, who experienced hardships when they were kids but who eventually succeeded in their lives, would help. They have been there so they know what it was like. I hope they would be generous (to help children in need)," he said.

Paul Fianza, board member of the Kataguan Watch, said they were happy that several groups and individuals had contacted them and pledged support for the project.

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Crow Valley birds need…

From page A17

that holds the greatest number of species of living orgapisms, especially among the best-known groups (plants, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians).

On a per hectare basis, the Philippines ranks in the top 17 megadiversity countries in terms of biological richness, with its more than 52,177 described species, more than half of which are found nowhere else in the world.

Together, these 17 megadiversity countries contain between 70 and 89 percent of global biodiversity, and thus form an integral part of the global heritage for conserving the diversity of life on earth.

Biodiversity, on the other hand, refers to the great variety and variability of organisms found on earth and the environment in which they live. It is the foundation of healthy and functioning ecosystems.

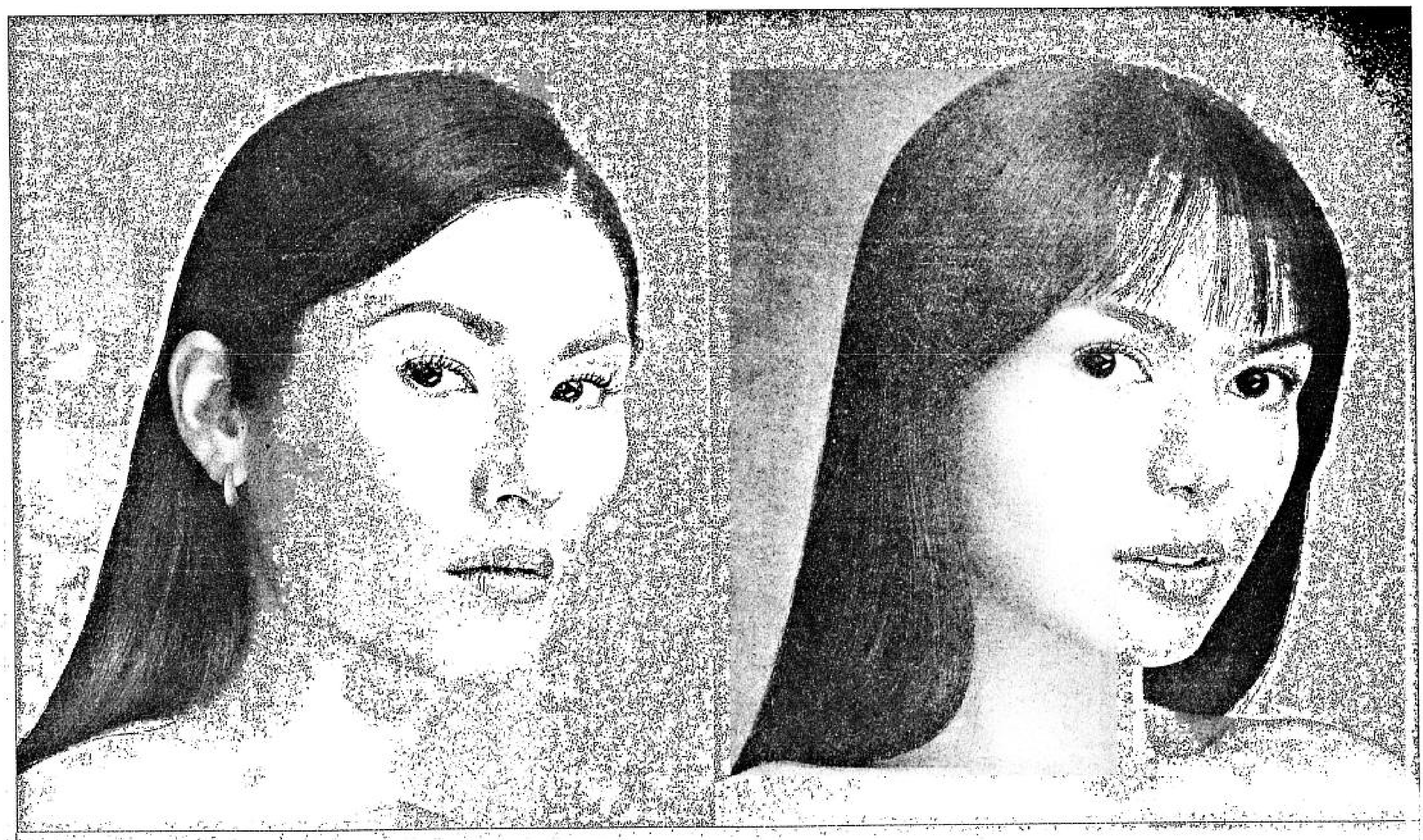
The Philippines is one of the tropical countries where levels of biodiversity and endemism are remarkably high. Unfortunately, it is also among the top 25 biodiversity hotspots in the world.

A biodiversity hotspot refers to areas that have a high diversity of plants and animals, which are endemic but at the same time, face serious pressures or threats of species loss and habitat destruction.

Citing various researches and scientific studies done recently, the PBCP says the Philippines has lost 75 percent or more of its original vegetation, while at least 418 of the country's wildlife species are threatened with extinction.

"These can no longer be considered as signs of an impending biodiversity crisis, because, apparently, the Philippines is already in the middle of one. The country stands to lose its rich biological heritage irreversibly and prove many experts' prediction of it becoming a global biodiversity disaster area," reports say.

In Tarlac, only 27.07 percent of its 94,212 hectares forest cover remains, according to the 1993-2000 inventory of land cover status undertaken by the Japan Forest Technology Association (Jafta).



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INQBox
Question of the Week

What is your favorite comics strip? Why?

Texters hus messages R printd in Tuesday's INQBox wil each receiv a Guyito stuffd toy! U

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US general mum on Tawi-Tawi abuse rap

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A top US military official refused to comment on allegations that four American soldiers committed human rights violations in Tawi-Tawi during a raid in a village in the province in May.

US Air Force Major General Gary North, the military operations director of the US Pacific Command, avoided reporters' questions on alleged American soldiers' abuses during a visit at the Southern Command headquarters here yesterday.

"I have to go and catch schedules," was all North said.

In another chance interview, North only answered questions on the purpose of his visit.

"I'm just here to visit the troops and have the opportunity to talk to the Southern Command commander and talk about things that are common concerning to all of us," he told reporters when pressed for answers to the charges that American soldiers took part in the raid that led to the killing of three villagers.

He lauded the continuous RP-US military training exercises conducted in this city and in some other areas in Mindanao saying that "the training is very, very good, we have common interest and they are very important."

North is also expected to visit the ongoing Light Infantry Battalion Training here where eight American soldiers are teaching about 120 Filipino soldiers of the 27th Infantry Battalion on LIB Squad React and Break Contact and on nocturnal warfare. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ex-underground youth activist says people slow in seeking change

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—Sept. 21, the 32nd anniversary of the imposition of martial law, evoked more fear and pain to Abel Maglambayan, one of the chief propagandists of the Kabataang Makabayan in this former American base town and a former political detainee.

Maglambayan, now 55, said he was disturbed by his perception that Filipinos, although increasingly burdened by the economic crisis, seemed unable to gather strength to seek change.

"*Parang ayaw tumutol ngayon* (It seems that they are afraid to go against the policies of government)," he said on Tuesday.

Like the previous commemoration of the imposition of martial law, Maglambayan spent the day by listening to revolutionary songs, poring over old propaganda papers, looking at photographs of gone and surviving comrades and recalling their memories, and visiting those still alive.

Most especially, he recalled with more fondness those who offered their lives for freedom through the armed struggle and whose remains had stayed in the "*sinapupunan ng* Sierra Madre (in Sierra Madre's womb)."

Poet Emmanuel Lacaba, who moved in the local youth and student movement as "Pepe Legazpi," is among those well remembered, he said.

"The same fundamental problems (of the economy and politics) have remained but, with greater effects on the people. But I have yet to see them rise in collective protests like in years past. Perhaps this is part of the maturing process," Maglambayan said.

The seeming silence and nonchalance, he said, may also be portents of a "welling anger."

"We saw it in history that those who quietly bore the brunt of abuse and exploitation also speak out and rise up . . . like the years before and after martial rule," he said.

This, he said, should be a warning to the Macapagal administration.

NEVER AGAIN to
MARTIAL
LAW!
-CEGP-
MINDANAO
CITY

MEMBERS of militant groups say never again to martial law during a rally in Davao City.

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

But for years, he said he is "neither here nor there," meaning he has not taken any side in the split that had hounded the legal and underground democratic movement in Central Luzon.

This, he said, is another source of pain. Following the split in 1997, animosity has grown between and among former comrades. Hostilities have attended some instances.

He said he understands these as part of contradictions.

Although Angeles City hosted Clark Air Base and was, in Maglambayan's time, the bastion of American imperialism, the nucleus of the Kabataang Makabayan evolved in the city.

The brothers Nilo and Pandong Tayag and Roger and Rodolfo Salas and Teresito Sison formed the national KM in 1964.

Mediaman's slay suspect fears for life

PAGADIAN CITY—The prime suspect in the murder of journalist Edgar Damalerio fears that something bad would happen to him inside the city jail here, Supt. Gregorio Pimentel, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Western Mindanao, told the INQUIRER.

Pimentel said Wapile told him that he is afraid for his safety but did not elaborate.

Earlier, Damalerio's wife, Gemma, said authorities should ensure Wapile's safety.

Ms Damalerio aired suspicion that Wapile's life is in danger as the supposed mastermind in the death of her husband remains at large.

She urged authorities to tighten Wapile's security inside the reformatory center in Barangay Lenienza here.

Reports indicated that Wapile wants to post bail.

However, the National Union of Journalist of the Philippines (NUJP) asked the Department of Justice not to allow Wapile to post bail.

"Freeing him, no matter how temporary, will perpetuate the fear being faced by the witnesses and family of Damalerio," Carlos Conde, NUJP secretary general, said in a statement.

Senior Supt. Karib Muammil, Zamboanga del Sur police chief, said they were doing everything to ensure the safety of the suspected gunman.

"I've directed the local BJMP (Bureau of Jail Management and Penology) to secure the life of Wapile," Muammil said.

Pimentel said the CIDG is trying to unmask the brains behind the Damalerio murder.

"We are following up several leads," he said.

Meanwhile, Pimentel said Wapile was very mad at his former boss, dismissed city police director Supt. Asuri Hawani.

Hawani was dismissed after criminal and administrative charges were filed against him by Damalerio's wife. *Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Wushu champion sues anti-narcotics agent for beating him up

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A wushu champion was allegedly beaten up by a government narcotics agent inside a nightclub here.

George Lusadan, 26, who won a gold in the Southeast Asian Games for wushu in Myanmar in 1999, feared that he might not be able to play again as his right eye had been damaged after Daniel Akia, a Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency agent, hit him in the eye with the butt of his gun.

In his affidavit complaint, Lusadan said Akia did not stop punching him even as he was being wheeled to the emergency room of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center on Sept. 6.

Akia denied hitting Lusadan, saying he left his gun in his car when he went to a pub here.

Lusadan was one of wushu's brightest stars under the stable of actor and wushu trainer Tsing Tsong Tsai. After winning the gold in the 48-kg class in the sanshou category, Lusadan was hurt in the world wushu competition also in 1999 and decided to shift to Muay Thai or Thai boxing.

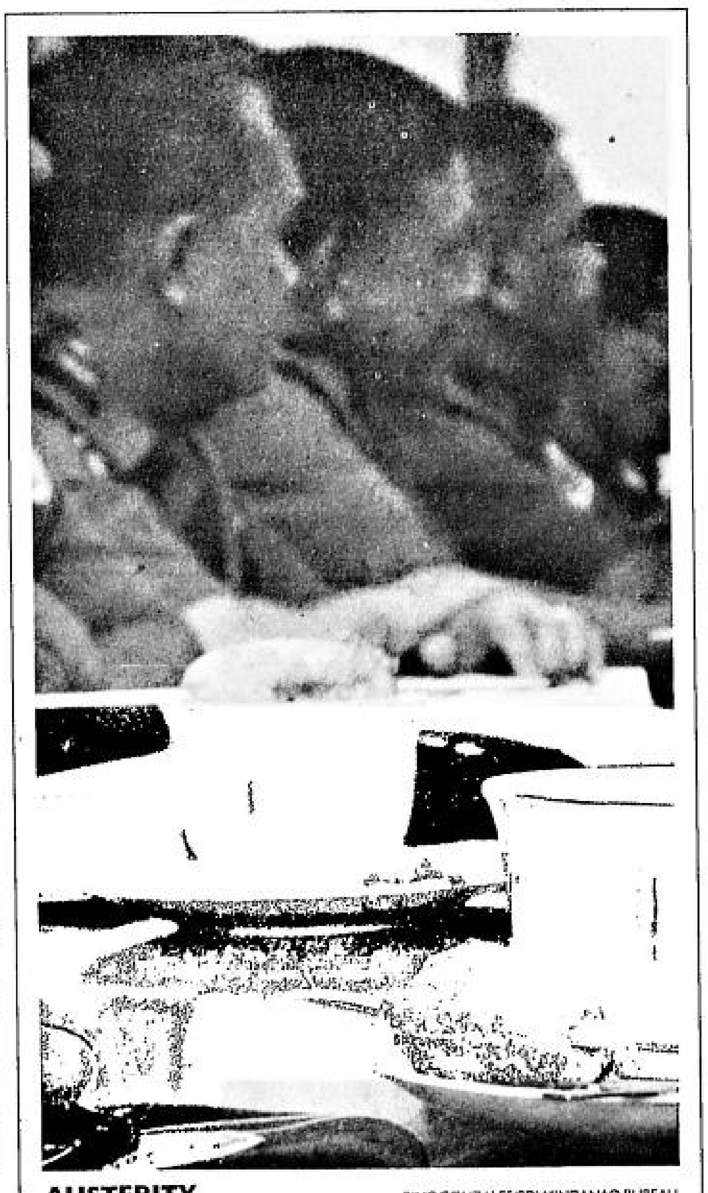
In his affidavit, Lusadan said he was with other Muay Thai players on Sept. 6 when Akia approached them and asked for a female boxer who was with them to dance with him.

After one dance, Akia again asked for another dance but the woman said she was tired.

When Lusadan told Akia that his companion needed to rest, Akia reportedly punched him and drew out his gun when Lusadan was about to retaliate.

When Lusadan raised his hands in surrender, Akia reportedly hit him in the eye with the butt of his gun.

Akia was then joined by his two companions who also beat up Lusadan, the affidavit said. When his companions took Lusadan to a taxi, Akia reportedly pulled him out of the cab.



AUSTERITY

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

The signs of the times are visible in the food served at a command conference recently of top police officials in Davao City. Banana cues and cups of coffee were the main fare at the conference in line with the government's austerity measures.

Ex-treasurer says debt biggest threat

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Former National Treasurer Leonor Briones has urged the government to start renegotiating with creditors and multilateral financing institutions for better payment terms while the country is still capable of paying its debts.

"It is time that we should mobilize the international community to address our debt problem," she told the INQUIRER.

Otherwise, she added the government would have no choice but to accept the creditors' terms when the country is in danger of defaulting from its loans.

She said the government should also form a "debt management office" composed of a full-time team of professionals that will study and manage the country's debt problem similar to other countries like Sweden and Ireland.

Briones, 63, was the former president of Freedom from Debt Coalition and director of the think tank Center for Policy and Executive Development.

She was here on Friday as one of the speakers in a conference attended by local executives and legislators in Iloilo.

She now teaches public finance at the National College of Public Administration and Governance at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Briones said the country's debt problem is perhaps the "biggest single threat to the economy."

She said the continuing inability of the government to rein the budget deficit and manage the debt is largely responsible for the downgrading of the country's credit rating and why investors are hesitant to enter the country.

The government's failure to manage the country's debt can be seen in the "staggering increase" in payments, which reached P5.16 trillion in 2002.

"That's a figure with 12 zeros if you can't imagine the amount," she said.

From 2001 to 2002 alone, the total debt increased by P750 billion from P4.41 trillion to P5.16 trillion, said Briones.

Ex-mayor named transport exec

CEBU CITY—The former mayor of Tagbilaran City, Bohol has been named undersecretary of the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) for projects.

Jose Torralba is scheduled to take his oath in October, said Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado.

According to the governor, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza had given Torralba specific assignment—the Panglao Island Airport Development Project, which is the transfer of the airport from Tagbilaran to the island.

Aumentado said Mendoza had called up Torralba last week and asked him to take his oath immediately but the former mayor asked that he be sworn in next month because he still had many things to finish in Tagbilaran before accepting his new job.

Torralba has been designated by Aumentado to head the Task Force on Panglao Island Airport.

Aumentado dismissed speculations that Torralba's appointment was just another political accommodation, being one of the allies of President Arroyo in Bohol.

He said he and three Bohol congressmen—Edgar Chatto, Roberto Cajes and Eladio Jala—endorsed Torralba's appointment to President Arroyo.

National Economic Development Authority Secretary General Romulo Neri, a Boholano, had backed up Torralba's appointment, he added.

"He is more than qualified, he is a lawyer, a good businessman and has been an executive for a long time," Aumentado said.

Torralba, 64, was mayor of Tagbilaran City for four terms.

Before he became mayor of Tagbilaran, Torralba served as vice mayor and councilor. At 23, Torralba was considered the youngest elected councilor in Tagbilaran City.

Torralba's term expired last May election. The Lakas-Christian Democrat fielded his wife Alberta, president of the Association of Barangay Captains in Tagbilaran, as candidate for mayor.

She, however, lost to now Mayor Dan Lim of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

West Visayas police start new probe of mediamen's killings

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The Philippine National Police (PNP) has started reinvestigating the unsolved killings of journalists in Western Visayas.

The Task Force Newsman led by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Western Visayas (CIDG-6) already interviewed some of the families of the victims, said Supt. Jose Jorge Corpuz, CIDG regional director.

Corpuz said they also ordered their provincial offices to submit the case files of the victims to determine if there were enough leads to reopen the cases.

The CIDG would also coordinate with police units that had investigated the cases.

Based on its list, the CIDG-6 is reviewing the killings of broadcasters Rolando Ureta (Aklan), Frank Palma (Bacolod City), Danny Llasos, Severino Arcones (Iloilo City) and newspaper editor Josef Nava (Iloilo City).

But Palma's killer, Kano Tocama, had been convicted of the crime and is now serving his term at the national penitentiary.

The CIDG-6 list only included unsolved cases from 1986. It excluded Iloilo broadcaster Eddie Suede and cub reporter Noel Teneso who were gunned down in a restaurant in Iloilo City on July 1, 1985.

The slain journalists were remembered by their family and colleagues during Mass on Monday, the eve of the 32nd anniversary of the declaration of martial law.

The Mass, officiated by Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, was attended by around 30 Iloilo journalists and the families of Arcones, Nava, Teneso and Suede.

In his homily, Lagdameo said the Mass "is our way of honoring (the martyrs) for paying the highest sacrifice to uphold press freedom and the people's right to know."

Lagdameo likened the death of the journalists to martyrdom for Christianity.

"The defense and promotion of truth will always remain a challenge and will include some struggle. Some may have to offer their lives for the truth, in imitation of the original witness to the truth, Jesus Christ, who sacrificed his very life for the sake of and in defense of the truth," said Lagdameo.

Ma. Diosa Labiste, INQUIRER correspondent and National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) chair in Iloilo, said the Mass was part of the commemoration of "one of the darkest periods for press freedom and democracy in our country.".

Rescue of women kept in Malaysia brothel seen soon

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Hope runs high that the four Negrense women who have been forced into prostitution in Sabah Malaysia will finally be rescued.

Rep. Ignacio Arroyo Jr. (Negros Occidental, 5th District) said the Malaysian police were already closing in on the brothel where the women were being kept and used as sex slaves.

The information, he added, was relayed to him by Marianito Roque, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) administrator, who expressed confidence that the women would be rescued soon.

The operation of the Malaysian police came after Arroyo discussed the plight of the four women with Malaysian Embassy officials.

Arroyo was also scheduled to meet with Malaysian Ambassador to the Philippines Iscandar Serudin yesterday.

The congressman also talked with Gen. Abdul Sarin, commanding general of the Malaysian Army in Sabah, who assured him that he would help in the rescue of the four.

The plight of the Negrense women, who came from the town under Arroyo's district, was brought to the congressman's attention by Negros Occidental Vice Gov. Isidro Zayco.

The four women were from the towns of Hinigaran, Himamaylan, Cauayan and Candoni.

Zayco said he was alerted by the women's plight through a text message sent to him by one of the women. The message said: "*Vice gub, napeke kami sang* agent *namon, ginabaligya kami sa kasa diri sa* Malaysia (Vice governor, we were fooled by our agent, we are being sold at a prostitution house here in Malaysia)."

One of the women was contacted by local reporters in the cellular phone on Monday.

The woman, who asked not to be named, talked in whispers because she said they were being closely watched by the syndicate that kept them locked in a karaoke bar that doubled as a brothel.

She begged to be rescued immediately because their life there was unbearable.

"There are about 20 of us here, four are from Negros, we are waiting to be rescued," she said.

"We cannot escape because they have our passports. They keep watch over us through video monitors. We are on the second floor and the doors out of here are padlocked," she added.

The woman lamented that they never expected that they would end up in a prostitution den. She said she had worked in other parts of the world but never in the kind of job that she is now.

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Automatic Center, Glorietta 3	Oct. 1 - Oct. 14	Ground Floor, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center
SM Citibank Appliance Fiesta	Oct. 16 - Nov. 7	Citibank Part III at the Megatrade Hall, 5th level, Building B
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Erap on Revilla: Oh no, why him?

From page A1

his support behind President Macapagal-Arroyo in order to keep his post as head of the Senate public works committee. In the May elections, the younger Revilla ran in the senatorial slate of Ms Arroyo. Revilla Jr. now chairs the committee.

Trust, confidence

Malacañang defended Revilla's appointment despite questions on his age, health and qualifications.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the 77-year-old Revilla, who sat in the Senate for 12 years, satisfied the "basic criteria" set by President Macapagal-Arroyo for her appointees.

Revilla, who had undergone spinal surgery twice and a triple heart bypass and suffered two mild strokes, chaired the Senate committee on public works throughout his two terms.

At his oath-taking in Malacañang on Tuesday, he walked up to the dais using a cane and aided by some of his children.

Bunye said one got appointed if he or she had the President's trust and confidence and had the "perceived capacity" to implement the Chief Executive's programs.

"We believe these two (considerations) apply to Senator Revilla," Bunye said in a radio interview.

He urged critics not to prejudge Revilla.

"Well, what I can say is let's give Senator Revilla a chance to disprove his critics and let's show them that he can implement the President's policy when it comes to reclamation projects," Bunye said.

Land dispute

A militant group raised fears not over what Revilla can't do as an allegedly unqualified chair of the PEA but over what he could do to supposedly abuse the position.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) alleged that Revilla had been harassing farmers in a property in Barangay Cabangaan in Silang, Cavite.

The KMP said Revilla was claiming the land as his own and had been trying to remove 37 families of 169 individuals from it.

"This appointment is highly irregular and smacks of political payback. A prize for letting his highly popular son, now Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., run under Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ticket to attract more voters," KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos said.

"This also poses an imminent threat to farmers and our lands, particularly in the province of Cavite. Up to now the goons of the former senator are conducting harassment operations in Barangay Cabangaan, Silang, Cavite to drive farmers from their lands, which Nardong Putik is claiming as his own," he said.

The KMP said the PEA was vested with the power and authority to develop and dispose of idle public lands, enter into contracts and loan agreements with private, public or foreign entities, and exercise the right of eminent domain in the name of the Republic of the Philippines.

"With all these powers at his command, the lands of farmers are in constant peril. The 25-hectare prime agricultural land with coffee and pineapple crops in Silang, Cavite, may be a test case to be used by the old Revilla to exercise his new position," said Carl Ala, KMP public information officer.

"We are hoping that it will not happen, because the farmers are ready to defend the land to their death; they have been there for more than 50 years and now they are being bullied to leave," Ala added.

No match

Estrada said Ms Arroyo's Cabinet was no match to his, which included former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora and Secretaries Bienvenido Laguesma (labor), Benjamin Diokno (budget), Horacio "Boy" Morales (agrarian reform), Alfredo Lim (local government), Ricardo Puno (press) and Gregorio Vigilar (public works).

"None of them were involved in any scam," he said.

Estrada noted that a number of Ms Arroyo's Cabinet men were facing graft charges before the Sandiganbayan and the Office of the Ombudsman.

They include Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, Ports Authority head Oscar Sevilla and Manila International Airport General Manager Alfonso Cusi.

He said Ms Arroyo had also lost much of her so-called economic "dream team," including former Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho and Bureau of Internal Revenue head Rene Bañez.

"And what have they done during their four years in power under (Ms Arroyo) who is supposed to be a doctor of economics?" he asked.

Estrada said the poor had become poorer and President Arroyo's borrowings bigger than his and former President Fidel Ramos'.

"For the first time in history, the government is begging for money. Who's to blame now?" he said.

Bunye explained that the President revived the PEA after abolishing it in 2002 amid the overpricing scandal of a road named after her father because she realized that its abolition required an act of Congress.

"If it is a legislative-created entity, it is subject to Congress (action). While there is no action yet from Congress on that matter, somebody has to run the agency," Bunye said.

"In the meantime," he said, the President wanted the PEA to serve as a "Philippine Reclamation Authority."

"In the President's view, Mr. Revilla can fulfill this mandate," Bunye said.

Bunye stressed that Revilla's position was "different" from that of PEA general manager and chief executive officer Teodorico Taguinod's.

"What Senator Revilla will do is to be active on the policy-making level," Bunye said.

This distinction has apparently worried Revilla, who expressed his concern that he would be a "mere figurehead" at the PEA.

32 years after, justice still eludes victims

From page A1

"The Arroyo regime has not learned any lessons of the past," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes. "It continues to disregard the popular will on issues like new taxes and power rate hikes—sure signs of dictatorial tendencies."

"On top of that, Arroyo has failed to live up to her promise of giving justice to the victims of the Marcos dictatorship," he said, adding:

"Amidst the worsening economic crisis, we see that the government offers no real alternative but more economic burdens and, along with that, heightened repression."

KMU chair Elmer Labog said things were no better even if martial law had been lifted.

He said the rising prices of utilities and basic goods, plus the impending round of tax increases, were signs that living conditions would worsen even more.

At the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City, parents and children offered prayers for their loved ones who died fighting martial law or who disappeared without a trace.

Carrying a framed picture of her son Manuel, whom she last saw in 1976, Nenita Cruz said the suffering she had seen in his eyes remained vivid in her memory as a mother.

"In honoring the martyrs, we proclaim our determination to be free forever," said Fr. Robert Reyes, who officiated the Mass in honor of those whose names were engraved on the granite Wall of Remembrance.

Reyes said the people should "keep the government under tight watch" because it was possible that the administration would use the fiscal crisis to declare a state of emergency that could eventually lead to a "pseudo martial law."

"Nothing has changed in the course of history," he said. "Repression and state terrorism are still the character of the Arroyo administration."

Drowned out

In Laoag City, four giant speakers mounted at the provincial capitol stage and blaring Christmas carols broke up a protest-march by youth and peasants belonging to militant groups Anakbayan, Stop-Ex and Anakpawis.

About 200 protesters gathered across from the capitol where a huge banner bearing Marcos' image covered the upper section of the building's façade. The banner was part of a photo exhibit that Marcos' heirs launched when they marked the late strongman's birth anniversary on Sept. 11.

The demonstrators had barely started their program when the speakers started blaring Christmas tunes. The loud sound coming from the speakers forced them to retreat to the nearby City Plaza, where they continued their protest.

"We were drowned out by the tunes coming from the speakers ... Our small speakers [mounted atop a hired jeepney] were no match to their equipment," said Romy Sanchez, secretary general of Bayan-Ilocos.

Lito Gorospe, media consultant of the provincial government, admitted having ordered the speakers put up shortly after the protesters were seen making their way to the capitol grounds.

"This is to offset the noise coming from their end," Gorospe said. "Their issues are awfully recycled. This is something that they do at this time of the year. Whatever sentiments they have, we respect them. But we also want them to feel the Christmas spirit."

Sanchez said the protest march was meant to remind Ilocanos that their countrymen were still suffering from the effects of the martial law declared by their favorite son.

"We see the same images of terror that began 32 years ago," he said.

In Sorsogon City, more than 1,000 protesters marched through the city and held a program in front of Camp Escudero to protest Ms Arroyo's alleged "Marcos-like" rule.

In the Laboure Hall of the St. Louise de Marillac College, students who were not yet born when martial law was declared listened to discussions on human rights violations and "the new face of martial law."

Outside, protesters belonging to Bayan, Karapatan-Sorsogon, Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and allied groups condemned what they called "Marcos-like suppression, economic attacks, corruption and human rights violations" of the Arroyo administration.

"Like Marcos, [Ms Arroyo] violently suppresses the legitimate actions and protests of the people against the continuous increase in the prices of petroleum products, goods, electricity and water, and the drop in social services," said the Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights (Karapatan-Sorsogon).

In the Laboure Hall, Fr. Leo Doloiras, chair of the Sorsogon Social Action Foundation, said: "The violation of human rights is still going on; it only changed face ... We mourn for the past, and we are thankful for those people [who fought martial law]."

"Until now justice has not been served to the victims of martial law, and the perpetrators are now again in power," according to Jerbert Briola of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (Southern Luzon).

'We do not forget'

At least 1,000 members of human rights groups in Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Cebu and Leyte joined separate protest actions to commemorate the imposition of martial law.

In Bacolod City, they pushed for the declaration of Sept. 21 as a national day of remembrance and called on the government to indemnify the victims.

"We forgive, but we do not forget," said Fr. Brian Gore, an Australian Columban missionary who, along with two other priests and six lay leaders, was jailed on the trumped-up charge of murder during the Marcos dictatorship.

Gore concelebrated the Mass at the San Antonio Abad Church, which was attended by about 50 martial law victims.

He said some of the 50 had lost their loved ones and the others had been tortured, jailed or lost their homes and property during military operations.

In Iloilo, about 500 Bayan members assembled at the Museo Iloilo before marching through the city and holding a program in front of the old provincial capitol.

Fortunato Pelaez, who was tortured during a 15-month detention at Camp Crame in 1974, noted that despite the ouster of the Marcoses in 1986, political dissenters were still being silenced.

"They justified the repression by calling us communists then. Now, [dissenters] are called terrorists," Pelaez said in a speech.

In Cebu, more than 200 activists gathered in front of the Cebu City Police Office to protest police attacks on legitimate protests and peaceful assemblies.

In Tacloban City, a simple program marked the commemoration rites at the Redemptorist parish grounds on Real Street.

About 80 TFDP members, Commission on Human Rights personnel and history students laid a wreath at the marker to Fr. Rodolfo Romano, a Redemptorist priest who disappeared after he was abducted by armed men believed to be soldiers on July 11, 1985, in Cebu City. ***Reports from Tina G. Santos, Leila B. Salaverria, Norman Bordadora and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Emir Emano Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Carla P. Gomez, Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Bernadette Parco and Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Lawyers up in arms over high court fees

From page A1

The tribunal on Monday suspended the implementation of some of the increases as well as of the new fees while it hears the complaints of various sectors.

Exorbitant

"It is the general sentiment of the bar, the litigants, the business sector and the public in general that the increase in legal fees have become exorbitant and prohibitive ... The imposition of such exorbitant legal fees effectively deters or worse, curtails the right of the public to seek judicial redress for their grievances,'" the IBP petition read.

It warned that this could have the effect of making the people "bear and suffer their grievances in silence or, worse, take the law into their own hands."

IBP president Jose Cadiz said the increase in legal fees placed majority of Filipinos at a disadvantage and could ultimately discourage people from seeking redress in the courts.

"These increases give the perception that justice is only for the rich in the Philippines," Cadiz said in a press conference.

A group of lawyers, led by Cadiz and other IBP officers, yesterday marched to Congress to impress upon legislators that while they favored an increase in the judges' pay and allowances, they didn't want this done through RA 9227 which prescribes that the Supreme Court fund the increases through a hike in legal fees.

The lawyers said the additional compensation for judges and justices should be given through direct appropriation by Congress.

"If the government can afford to pay its fat cats a salary of P500,000 per month, why not increase the salary of judges?" said a manifesto from the lawyers' group.

The group said it was "grossly immoral" that the judiciary receives a measly 0.9 percent of the national budget when it has around 25,000 employees.

They noted that in other countries, magistrates and judges were the highest paid public servants. But here, a lawyer in his third year in a reputable Makati law firm already receives more compensation than the Chief Justice, the group's manifesto said.

They suggested taking a chunk of the P21.6-billion congressional pork barrel and giving P7 billion of it to the judicial branch.

This would make the budget of Congress and the judiciary at par with each other at 2 percent, the lawyers said.

This will also mean better pay packages for judges to attract the best and the brightest to the judiciary, and help to insulate the judges from corruption, they said.

While the IBP petition stressed that it recognized the law's "laudable purpose" of ensuring judicial independence by giving additional compensation to members of the judiciary, it said the Constitution should not be violated in the process.

It said RA 9227 had the unintended effect of "derogating" the right of litigants to a speedy disposition of their cases, contrary to the policy set out in the Constitution.

'Unconstitutional"

It said the law was "patently unconstitutional" as it transformed court fees into a tax, or a revenue-generating measure.

The IBP said that RA 9227 called the increased salaries "allowances" and the increased taxes "legal fees" when "in reality these are salaries, not allowances and taxes, not legal fees."

The law was also unconstitutional as it delegated "the inherently legislative power to tax" by Congress to the judiciary.

It also noted that RA 9227, being a revenue law, should have originated in the House of Representatives and not in the Senate.

It said the law and the implementing guidelines for the fee hikes also violated the Constitution's equal protection clause. It said the "blanket imposition" of legal fees for all types of motions was clearly prejudicial to the rights of litigants as it lumped together the legitimate litigants with those who file motions that are dilatory or pro forma in nature.

Named respondents in the petition were the Senate through Senate President Franklin Drilon, the House of Representatives through Speaker Jose de Venecia, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, the Office of the Court Administrator, the clerks of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the Sandiganbayan and the Court of Tax Appeals, and various individuals serving court processes.

There's hope …

From page A1

thrice-a-week trips to the center from their home in Parañaque because the family could no longer afford the P90 fare.

Now they're back to their old schedule. Cherry does not know who is paying for their transportation, or the therapy that her 11-year-old daughter needs, but she's deeply thankful.

Jhelyn is afflicted with spastic diplegian cerebral palsy (CP). She is again receiving treatment from volunteer doctors and therapists at the center because of the kindness of an anonymous donor.

The PCPI, a 48-year-old institution serving CP patients, recently launched its Patient Aid program to help bring poor families to the center, located on Sacred Heart Extension in Makati. This has made a huge difference in the life of the Florentinos, whose other child is blind and mute.

"It's very hard," Cherry tells the INQUIRER as she watches her daughter at play with a therapist. "I cannot work because I have to take care of my two kids, who are both disabled. Having free therapy and classes for Jhelyn means a lot because we cannot afford private care."

Many of the CP patients come from all over Metro Manila, Laguna and Cavite, but some travel from as far as Banawe and Cagayan Valley to avail themselves of the free services that the center offers.

The therapy and classes are free, says PCPI administrator Marianita Ong. "But because of the hard times, the rising transportation cost, some of the patients do not come back anymore to continue their treatment," she says.

The PCPI board decided this year to raise funds not only to support the center's free services but also to meet the patients' needs.

Sponsors

The Patient Aid program selects indigent patients and looks for sponsors for them, either reimbursing their transportation expenses or accommodating those from the provinces.

For example, whenever they are in Metro Manila for therapy, the patient and caregiver from Banawe are hosted by a well-off family who also has a CP patient enrolled in the center.

The PCPI center teaches caregivers from the provinces basic physical and occupational therapy for two weeks so that they can administer this to CP patients, who then come back for a checkup after six months.

"That's what we do here," Ong says. "We try to teach them to also help each other, because our patients come from extreme poles—some are quite well-off while others are really poor. *Tulungan lang* (It's a matter of helping one another)."

And the PCPI is in an excellent position to teach about helping.

It has served about 10,000 patients since it was founded by Dr. Deogracias Tablan in 1956 as the Elks Cerebral Palsy Project. It is the only institution in the Philippines that gives quality care specifically to people with CP.

The center provides free physical and occupational therapy, special education classes and computer skills training to some 200 patients every month.

Therapy is done thrice a week, and special education classes daily from 8 a.m to 11 a.m.

Cerebral palsy is a non-progressive neurological condition that affects the motor area of the brain, resulting in physical disabilities and even mental retardation in some cases.

There are many types of CP patients. Spastics are stiff, ataxics have balance problems, athetoids manifest involuntary muscle movements, and others are a combination of these types.

Some cases are complicated by epilepsy, autism, deafness, blindness and mental retardation.

The PCPI estimates that around 150,000 Filipinos have cerebral palsy. Most of them are neglected by their families because of the stigma attached to the disease and the effort required to assist patients.

But some manage to complete their studies and develop skills despite their disability.

Second home

Ong says having a child with CP tends to take a toll on marital relationships because some husbands cannot bear the burden of caring for such a child.

Thus, single mothers are not unusual clients of the PCPI center.

The center accepts all CP patients, although it gives priority to those who need rehabilitation rather than maintenance therapy, and those who cannot afford private care.

The youngest patient at the center is a nine-month-old baby, and the eldest is a 53-year-old woman who has been coming to the center since she was a child.

"This is our second home," says Fe Agundo, whose son Richard has been receiving therapy at the center for the past 20 years. Richard completed his special education classes at the center as well.

"I can ask the other mothers or guardians to watch over Richard when I have to rush to work, and they do the same for me. We all know one another here," says Fe, who lives in Makati and does manicures for a living.

Having a child with cerebral palsy was a very bitter experience for Fe at the start. But because of the help she got from friends and the PCPI staff, she gradually learned to accept Richard's condition.

Now, Fe takes pride in the little things that Richard can do.

She turns wistful as she recounts her son's dream of having a van someday so that they will not have to endure the occasional rejection when they hail a tricycle to go to the center.

Generosity of strangers

While many of the therapists and doctors at the center are volunteers, the PCPI spends at least P300,000 a month for salaried staff members and the operation of equipment for therapy and classes.

Its funds come mostly from responses to mailers that it sends to addresses in the phone directory, and internship fees from schools who send their students for practicum.

Like its patients, the center has survived for almost 50 years through the generosity of strangers and medical experts.

The PCPI welcomes any assistance in the form of cash, teaching materials, equipment such as computers, supplies, and even personnel who can help in the upkeep of the center and its services. *(The center may be reached at phone number 890-8838. Cash donations may be deposited to BPI Account No. 3561-0284-77 or picked up by center staff.)*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Ex-general widens lead …

From page A1

ences and begun work on a new cabinet. He has also expressed a desire to heal a rift with his former boss, sparked when he quit her cabinet in March on account of his presidential ambitions.

Anung said Megawati's party would instruct members to accept the results of the election, but would not accept offers to work with the new government. "We won't go for power sharing," he said.

Reliable gauge

In past elections, early counting has proved a reliable guide to final results. Preelection polls as well as an independent survey of Monday's vote also forecast a victory for the challenger.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Yudhoyono had 60.2 percent of the vote, to Megawati's 39.7 percent.

The General Election Commission said about 122 million votes were cast, reflecting an 80 percent voter turnout. The new president will be sworn in Oct. 20.

International monitors at polling stations across the vast archipelago said there were no "serious problems" with the poll.

Glyn Ford, head of a 224-member European Union election monitoring team, said it was a "genuine democratic election. Indonesia is … the largest Muslim nation. It demonstrates that democracy is not culturally bound."

Australian and American officials also hailed the peaceful conduct of the poll. "We congratulate Indonesia on the conclusion of its historic elections," said Adam Ereli, deputy spokesperson of the US State department. "These landmark elections set a strong example for the region and emerging democracies everywhere."

Yudhoyono, 55, studied in the United States. He said his priorities were building up an economy that is growing much slower than Indonesia's neighbors, attacking graft, and providing jobs for the country's 210 million people.

Koran Tempo newspaper reported yesterday that he would name some key ministers in the next 10 days. His campaign officials denied this.

Tough challenges

That Yudhoyono faces tough challenges is more than rhetoric.

The world's fourth most populous nation is resource-rich but bedevilled by rampant corruption, unpredictable courts, weak economic growth and violent Islamic militants linked to al-Qaida.

YUDHOYONO has not claimed victory but is working on a new cabinet. AP

As chief security minister, Yudhoyono, a secular Muslim, led the fight against al-Qaida-linked extremists.

"SBY has a very short time to prove himself to be effective," said Jeffrey Winters, an Indonesia expert at Chicago's Northwestern University. "If he doesn't produce on the rule of law, on corruption, on the economy, on jobs, on getting investment going, he's going to be thrown out too in five years."

A leader of the insurgents fighting Indonesian rule in Aceh province said also yesterday that "the war" would continue.

"Yudhoyono is well-educated and he understands the political impact and implications of dialogue, but he is still a military man," Bakhtiar Abdullah, a spokesperson for the Free Aceh rebel movement said in a telephone interview from Stockholm, where he lives in exile. "Whatever happens in Jakarta is irrelevant to the people of Aceh because they are still getting killed, tortured and oppressed every day. The situation in the field has not changed and it will not change."

Yudhoyono has publicly rejected any possibility of allowing the oil and gas-rich province to secede from the sprawling archipelago nation. Nevertheless, international mediators who participated in the stalled talks say they expect the peace process to resume under his administration. *Reuters, AP*

FAST FACTS

Country name: Republic of Indonesia
Area: 1.92m sq km (an archipelago of 17,508 islands)
Capital: Jakarta
Languages: Bahasa Indonesia (official, modified form of Malay), English, Dutch, local dialects (especially Javanese)
Religions: Muslim 88%, Protestant 5%, Roman Catholic 3%, Hindu 2%, Buddhist 1%, other 1% (1998)
Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population.
Population: 238.45 million (July 2004 est.)
Number of eligible voters: 153.36 million
Government type: Republic
Life expectancy at birth: total population: 69.26 years
Male: 66.84 years
Female: 71.8 years (2004 est.)
Monetary unit: 1 rupiah (Rp)
Per capita GDP: (purchasing power parity)—$3,200 (2003 est.)

Sources: CIA World Factbook at http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/id.html and Jakarta Post news report at http://www.thejakartapost.com/yesterdaydetail.asp?fileid=20040608.A06

What's in, what's not

JAKARTA—Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's big win over Megawati Sukarnoputri in Indonesia's presidential election will mean some changes to the world's most populous Muslim nation. Other things could remain the same.

A guide to what's in and what's not:

- Cabinet—Yudhoyono is giving no hints but all eyes are on the positions of finance minister and attorney general. Markets want Boediono, the current finance minister who is widely respected, to stay.

The attorney general's job, critical to battling endemic graft, could go to fiery human rights lawyer Todung Mulya Lubis or former dissident and lawyer Marsillam Simanjuntak. Both are highly respected and the appointment of either would send a strong message that Yudhoyono is serious about tackling graft.

- Policies—Expect few big differences. Yudhoyono and Megawati are secular Muslim nationalists, although the former general might be tougher on terror. Fiscal policy should remain prudent, although Yudhoyono's running mate, businessman Jusuf Kalla, wants more spending to boost job growth—a key campaign promise. This could influence the finance minister appointment.
- Cabinet meetings—Expect Yudhoyono to lead the meetings unlike Megawati who took a passive role, underscoring what many analysts said was her lack of depth on key issues.
- Style—Yudhoyono's cautiousness is legendary and makes some wonder if he has the character to take a stick to Indonesia's vested interests. But he is at ease with the media and Indonesians can expect to hear often from their new president, unlike Megawati who was uncomfortable in the spotlight, spoke through proxies and was noted for prickly responses to reporters at her rare news conferences. After three years under Megawati, the presidential palace will probably get a spokesperson again.
- Democracy—Indonesia's first direct presidential poll showed Indonesians want cleaner and more responsive government from Jakarta. A big question remains whether Yudhoyono's popular mandate will be enough to take on parliament, where a coalition critics see as representing the "old" Indonesia accounts for 55 percent of seats. Parliament is crucial to getting legislation passed and approval for key financial policies and senior police and military appointments.
- Spouses—Megawati's tycoon husband, Taufik Kiemas, attracted bags of controversy over his business and political interests. This year Kiemas accused Yudhoyono of childish behavior in a public row that accelerated Yudhoyono's resignation from Megawati's cabinet. Yudhoyono's wife, Kristiani Herrawati, has moved into politics, assuming a deputy chair position in her husband's infant Democrat Party. Her father was Sarwo Edhie Wibowo, a key figure in Indonesia's feared special forces, Kopassus. *Reuters*

Iraqi militants …

From page A1

in 24 hours unless female inmates were released from the Abu Ghraib and Umm Qasr jails.

The US military has denied holding any female prisoners in either of those two jails, saying only two women were in its custody in Iraq. The two, dubbed "Mrs Anthrax" and "Dr Germ" by US forces, are accused of working on Saddam Hussein's weapons programmes, and are being held at a secret high-security camp.

Number one enemy

Washington says Zarqawi, a Jordanian, is its number one enemy in Iraq. His group has claimed responsibility for most of the bloodiest suicide attacks in Iraq since Saddam was overthrown. Zarqawi's group also beheaded US telecoms engineer Nicholas Berg in May, and South Korean driver Kim Sun-il in June.

In Monday's videotape, the militants' statement ridiculed the US president and promised Iraqi women that their honor would be protected. "Oh, you Christian dog Bush, stop your arrogance. The mujahideen will give America a taste of the degradation you have inflicted on the Iraqi people," the statement said.

Pan-Arab television station Al-Jazeera showed brief clips of the video, with an announcer saying, "[We] will not show the full video because of the violent scenes." Parts of the footage were also shown on Al-Arabiya TV.

The United States has offered $25 million for information leading to the death or capture of Zarqawi, and has launched a series of air strikes on the rebel-held city of Falluja, west of Baghdad, targeting suspected hideouts used by his followers.

Families' pleas

Hensley's wife Patty, in an interview with CNN, pleaded for his release for the sake of their 13-year-old daughter.

"I would plead with them to please realize [that] this man does not deserve this fate," she said. "I want them to understand that he has no political value whatsoever. He was just there doing a service for the Iraqi people."

Bigley's family appealed to British Prime Minister Tony Blair for help.

His brother Philip said in a statement broadcast on Sky News television: "If nothing is done, then the two remaining hostages will die by the most horrific means. Prime Minister, we as a family are begging you, please help us."

ARMSTRONG: Gory end at the hands of merciless terrorists. AP

Bigley's son, Craig, in his own statement aired on the BBC, asked Blair "to consider the amount of bloodshed already suffered."

Hostage crisis

More than a dozen hostages are being held in Iraq and threatened with death unless their captors' demands are met.

Two French journalists were seized a month ago, and two female Italian aid workers were kidnapped in broad daylight in central Baghdad earlier this month.

Over the weekend, a statement purportedly from the group holding the Frenchmen said they were no longer captives but had agreed to stay with the group for some time to cover its activities.

French President Jacques Chirac issued a fresh plea on Monday for their release. He said his reaction to the killing of Armstrong was one of "horror and incomprehension."

"Of course I think of the two French hostages and their Syrian companion—two men who were only doing their job, and doing no harm to anyone," he said at the United Nations. "I appeal solemnly again to justice and humanity, so that our two journalists and their companion be returned to freedom."

There has been no word on the fate of the Italians. An Internet statement purportedly from Zarqawi's group said on Monday that it was not holding them.

Another guerrilla group has threatened to kill 10 workers from a US-Turkish firm unless their company stopped doing business in Iraq within three days. Most of the workers seized are believed to be Turkish. *Reuters, AP, AFP*

TWO unidentified women in Hillsdale, Michigan, cry during a memorial service for Eugene Armstrong. The former Michigan resident was abducted and killed in Iraq on Monday. AP

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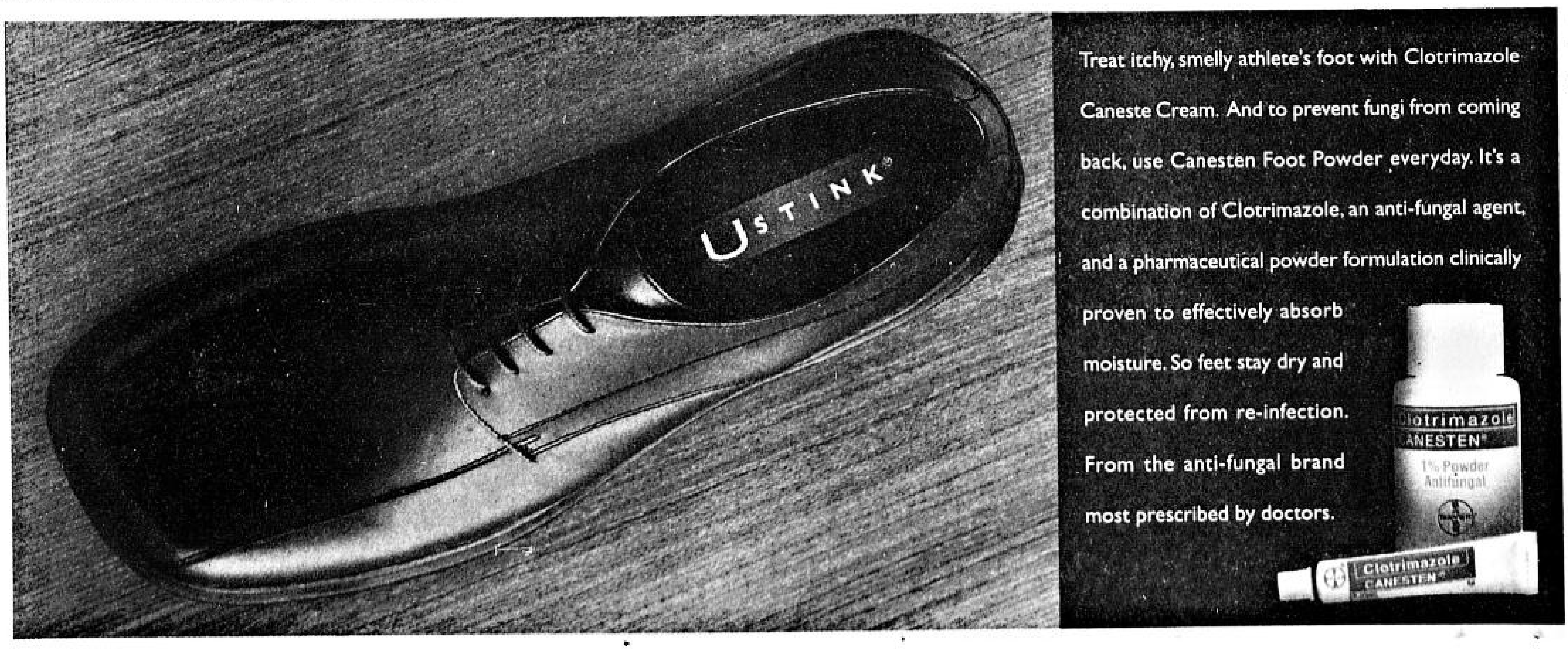

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Bus route scheme revived on Edsa

By Margaux C. Ortiz

IN ANTICIPATION of the heavy traffic that comes with the Christmas season, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has decided to revive the Organized Bus Route (OBR) scheme to limit the number of passenger buses on Edsa.

"There are too many buses on Edsa that cause severe congestion in the main thoroughfare," said MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

Vergel de Dios said many of the buses travel half-full even during peak hours.

The MMDA introduced the OBR scheme late last year to prevent passenger buses from plying Edsa at the same time.

Under the scheme, the buses would be kept in endpoint terminals and then sent out depending on the number of passengers along Edsa at a given time.

Vergel de Dios said they had identified endpoint terminals at the Food Terminal Inc. (FTI) in Taguig, Alabang in Muntinlupa City, domestic airport in Pasay City, Fairview in Quezon City, and Malanday in Valenzuela City for the re-implementation of the project.

Terminals

The traffic director said they have two existing endpoint terminals in Navotas and Baclaran where they had recently embarked on a partial implementation of the scheme.

Vergel de Dios said the OBR would be fully operational before Christmas.

"Just because we did not succeed in our past attempts to implement the OBR does not mean that we should give up on it," Vergel de Dios stressed, adding that the OBR could be the long-awaited solution to Edsa's traffic woes.

He added that they would be imposing stiffer fines and more stringent measures to ensure the project's success.

Vergel de Dios said the recent elections that would have made its implementation unpopular for politicians, and the lack of support from bus operators and drivers had caused the past OBR dry runs to fail.

He said most of Edsa's 6,000 bus drivers were not aware of the new scheme because of the lack of coordination with their operators.

Seminars

To solve the problem, the drivers were made to go through half-day seminars on the basic rules and regulations of the scheme.

The MMDA would also be stricter about queue cards they would distribute to the drivers, Vergel de Dios added.

The queue cards are issued to bus drivers when they leave their terminals. The cards ensure that the buses do not overtake each other, and so that they move systematically in single file on Edsa's yellow lane.

Vergel de Dios said the drivers were not aware of the cards' importance during the dry runs. Out of the 1,000 queue cards distributed, only a few made their way back to the MMDA. Vergel de Dios said they also encountered problems with mall owners who insisted on collecting high terminal fees.

The OBR, which was first implemented in December last year, was temporarily suspended last March at the onset of the national elections.

Grim end for tot

By Leila B. Salaverria

A 3-YEAR-OLD boy was discovered dead with 20 stab wounds by his grandfather inside their house in Malate, Manila, yesterday afternoon.

Clarence Racho, was found dead at 1 p.m. yesterday inside their house at Camachile corner Singalong Street.

Initial reports showed that the boy's parents, Rene and Marlene, had a fight early in the morning. Marlene left the house later.

When the boy's grandfather came to check on Clarence, he saw his grandson's bloodied body, already lifeless. Investigators are now looking for Rene to shed light on the incident.

STICKY BUSINESS
Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes (center) and Philippine National Police Director Edgar Aglipay attach Komunidad Kontra Kotong (KKK) stickers on a jeepney as part of the PNP's continuing anti- "kotong" (mulcting) drive to regain the public's trust in the police.
JOAN BONDOC

A stab at land ownership

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE REAL ESTATE company that owns the land where 6,000 families have been relocated in Marikina City is not keen on demolishing the structures in the area.

Buddy Joaquin of Edgewater Realty Development Inc. said that despite the court rulings in his favor, he would rather have the settlers of Tumana District buy the land than drive them away. "What I want is to give them the first chance to buy the land," Joaquin told INQUIRER. He is set to talk with the residents on Saturday.

The Tumana District is one of the city's largest resettlement sites. Residents here, numbering up to 10,000, face eviction after the courts rescinded the memorandum of agreement (MOA) the city entered into with Edgewater in 1994. Higher courts have affirmed the decision of the lower court. The courts said Marikina did not keep its end of the agreement. By rescinding the MOA, the courts effectively declared the settlers as "squatters" anew.

"I want to sell it to them. They can borrow the money from Pag-ibig," Joaquin said. Under this system, Pag-ibig could pay Edgewater in full, while the residents pay Pag-ibig in 20 to 25 years.

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FACTORY OUTLET

Towing case takes ugly turn

By Tina G. Santos

CALOOCAN City Mayor Enrico Echiverri is facing several charges after he had cancelled the contract of a firm that had secured the exclusive parking and towing rights in the city because of alleged violations.

The charges have been lodged in the Office of the Ombudsman and the Office of the President.

Rogelio Tan, president and general manager of Jadewell Parking Systems is seeking Echiverri's removal from his post for allegedly violating the Local Government Code, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and the Code of Ethical Standards, and for allegedly violating the Constitution, dishonesty, oppression, misconduct in office and abuse of authority.

Tan filed the complaint after Echiverri canceled his contract to operate a pay parking system in the city forged with the previous administration two years ago.

Last week, Echiverri also ordered the banning of all towing services in the city, including those accredited by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Northern District Traffic Enforcement Group, citing complaints of exorbitant fees, and abuses by traffic and law enforcers.

Tan claimed that he was condemned without trial, adding that he even tried to talk to the mayor to find out the reason for the cancellation, but he had been ignored.

Filing the cases was a "last resort," he said, since he was left with no better option. The businessman said he had invested P35 million in the Caloocan project, and had expected to break even in five years.

Echiverri remained unfazed, explaining he only implemented a city ordinance suspending the firm's operations because of numerous complaints from motorists. The mayor also alleged that Jadewell had not been paying the right amount as stipulated in the contract. Jadewell was reportedly paying the city government only five percent, instead of the agreed 20 percent of gross profit or 50 percent of net profit, whichever is higher.

Tan appealed to Echiverri to give him a chance to explain his side, adding that he was willing to withdraw the charges if Echiverri agrees to discuss the issue with him.

EZ2
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(In exact order)

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min
7 16 19 37 38 42

SUERTRES
5 2 6

SIX DIGIT
8 5 6 2 9 0
(In exact order)

Muslim leader gunned down

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE CHIEF of the civilian component of the Philippine National Police's anti-illegal drugs campaign in Taguig, Metro Manila, was shot to death by still unidentified men in front of his house in Maguindanao St. corner Barangay road, Maharlika Village Monday afternoon.

Hadji Samier Esmael, 38, was also the president of the Council of Elders of the Southern police district, according to Taguig chief of police, Supt.Ramon Reyes.

Well-revered

He was also the administrator of the Blue Mosque in Maharlika Village.

The council of elders is composed of Christian and Muslim leaders who maintain peace and order in the area.

Reyes said the victim was a big help in pursuing criminals in Taguig.

"The victim could have could have gotten the ire of drug lords and had him killed," Reyes said.

According to witnesses, the suspects even shook hands with the victim before the others started shooting Esmael from behind.

Esmael suffered multiple gunshot wounds on the head and body.

The suspects also took the victim's firearm and cell phone.

Police said the suspects left the scene riding in a motorcycle with the body marking "MTODA."

Son unharmed

The 12-year-old son of the victim, who was with him when the incident took place, was not hurt.

A certain Benzar Tinggahan was allegedly hit during the crossfire, and was immediately brought to a hospital for treatment.

Police recovered several empty shells and slugs from the crime scene.

MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (MCLE)
Saturday Course
September 25- October 2,9,16,23, 2004
First Floor, Lecture Hall, U.P. Law Center

DATE	SUBJECT	CREDIT HOURS'	LECTURERS
25 September	Ethical Aspects of Government Procurement (Legal Ethics)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Prof. Bartolome Fernandez
	Appellate Practice and Procedure	Three (3) (1:30-4:30)	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
02 October	Update in Family Law	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Prof. Danilo L. Concepcion
	International Arbitration	Three (3))1:30-4:30)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
09 October	Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	Four (4) (8:00-12:00)	Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez
	Update in Criminal Law and Procedure	Three (3) (1:00-4:00)	Justice Ricardo P. Galvez
	International Law	Two (2) (4:15-6:15)	Prof. Harry L. Roque
16 October	Environmental Law Update (MCLE Prescribed)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Prof. Marvic V. Leonen
	ADR Act of 2004 Update in Legal Ethics	Two (2) (1:00-3:00) Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	Prof. Alfredo F. Tadiar Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr.
23 October	Constitutional Law Reforms (MCLE Prescribed)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Dean Froilan M. Bacungan
	Pre Trial and Trial Skills	Four (4) (1:00-5:00)	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin

REGISTRATION FEE: P10,000.00/package or P1,200/session (morning or afternoon session). The fee is inclusive of snacks, MCLE Accredited Certificates of Attendance and handouts.
FOR DETAILS: PLEASE CALL 929-7137, 9205514 LOC. 208-209

MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (MCLE)
One –Week Course
September 27- October 1, 2004
First Floor, Lecture Hall, U.P. Law Center

DATE	SUBJECT	CREDIT HOURS'	LECTURERS
27 September	Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	Four (4) (8:00-12:15)	Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez
	a) Developments in ADR b) International Arbitration	Three(3) (1:00-4:00) Two (2) (4:15-6:15)	Prof. Alfredo F. Tadiar Dean Custodio O. Parlade
28 September	Update in Legal Ethics	Three (3) (8:30-12:00)	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr
	Pre Trial and Trial Skills	Four (4) (1:00-5:15)	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin
29 September	Update in Criminal Law	Three (3) (8:30-12:00)	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta
	Recent Developments in Family Law (MCLE Prescribed)	Three (3) (1:30-5:00)	Prof. Danilo L. Concepcion
30 September	Anti-Money Laundering Act (MCLE Prescribed))	Three (3) (8:30-12:00)	Atty. Celia Escarel- Sandejas
	a) International Law b) Update in Labor Law	Two (2) (1:00-3:00) Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	Atty. Eric Henry Mallonga Dean Antonio H. Abad, Jr
01 October	Civil, Criminal and Administrative Liabilities of Lawyers	Three (3) (8:30-12:00)	DCA Zenaida N Elepano
	Update in Civil Procedure	Three (3) (1:30-5:00)	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino

Schedule of each session includes registration and break. The schedules are subject to change without prior notice Kindly confirm lecture schedules prior to registration and attendance.

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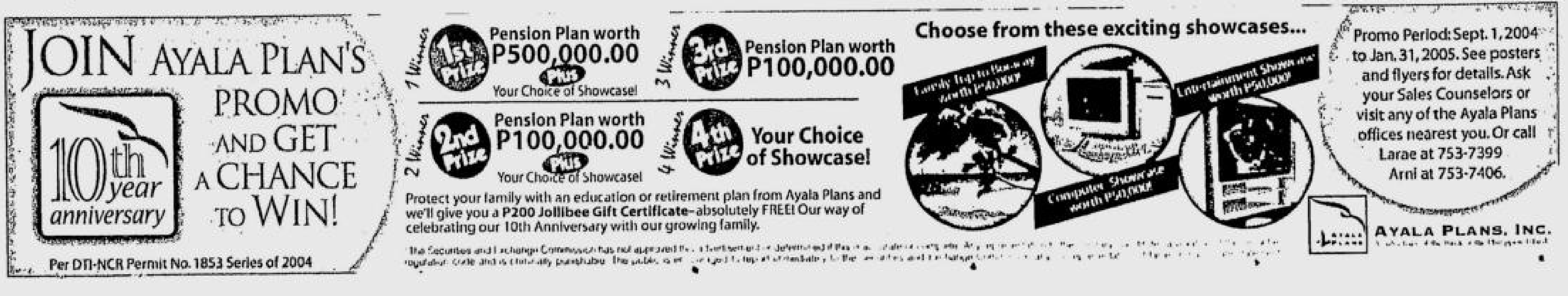

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ANTI-'KOTONG' DRIVE

44 Metro cops nabbed

By Nancy C. Carvajal

HALF of those arrested for extortion (*kotong*) and robbery since January of this year were policemen.

National Capital Region Chief, Police Director Avelino Razon Jr. said that out of 90 arrests made, 44 were Metro policemen, 38 were traffic enforcers of the Metro Manila Development Authority and from local government units, and nine were civilians posing as policemen or traffic enforcers.

Razon also stressed that the campaign against extortion is not only limited to low ranking policemen.

He cited as example the head of the Southern Police Division, Supt. Enecito Ubales, who has been relieved from his post and is now under investigation.

Ubales was reassigned to the regional headquarters pending results of the investigation, Razon added.

Complaints against Ubales had been aired by leaders of transport and truckers organizations during previous dialogues, according to Razon, adding that he had formed a " fleet watch" that would tap members of the transport sector as the command's eyes and ears on the streets.

A weekly dialogue with leaders of major transport organizations in Metro Manila would also be conducted to thresh out problems between drivers and law enforcers .

In addition, Razon said an "honesty team" was created composed of four policemen equipped with cell phones, video cameras and radios. Riding tandem on board motorcycles, the policemen are tasked to respond immediately once they receive a complaint.

The teams are from the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division of Metro Manila's five police districts.

An Anti-"Kotong" Watch Center (tel. no 838-0434) has also been set up to make reporting extortion activities easier for the public.

Another inmate dead

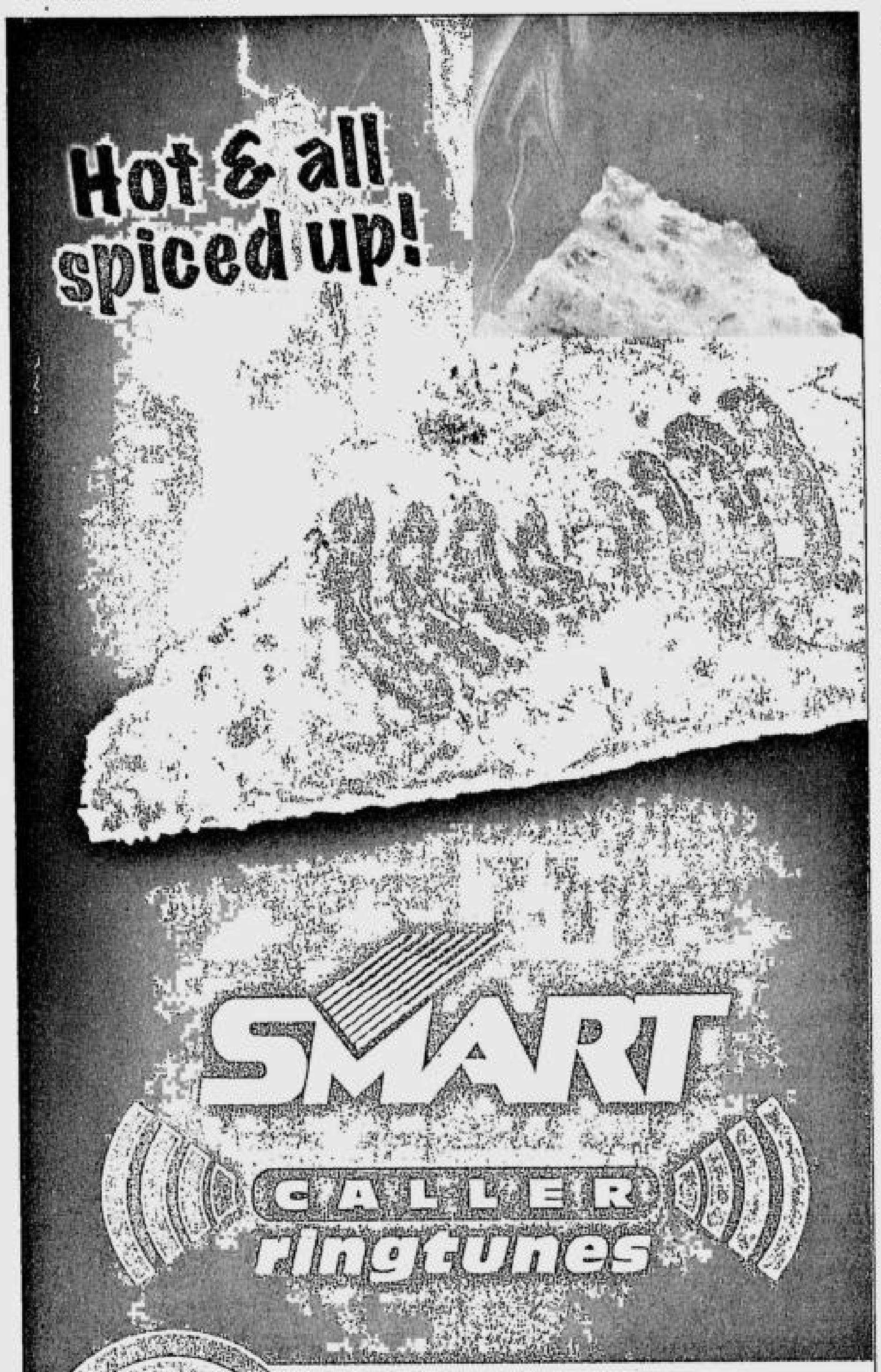
By Leila Salaverria

DAYS after two Manila City Jail inmates died of different causes within hours of each other, a third inmate followed suit yesterday morning.

Orlando Lopez, 45, in jail on an arson charge, had been confined at the jail infirmary after he said he found it hard to breathe, and started to vomit blood.

He stayed there for three days.

Lopez was rushed to the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center later after he began to began vomiting blood again, but he did not make it.



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Dolphins gun for 1st NC crown

Coach Tolentino returns to PCU bench; San Beda Cubs seek 15th junior title

By Jasmine W. Payo

COACH Loreto Tolentino will be the first to admit that luck played a huge part in the PCU Dolphins' Game 1 triumph in the NCAA senior basketball Finals.

"It was an even matchup. It was the breaks of the game (that decided it)," he said.

Tolentino is hoping for the same fortune today when the Dolphins vie for their first championship crown against the University of Perpetual Help Altas in Game 2 of their best-of-three title series at the Araneta Coliseum.

Philippine Christian University found a savior in sophomore Jason Castro, who drained a game-winning triple in the final four seconds that rattled the rim before sinking for a dramatic 70-68 victory that put the Dolphins on the threshold of their first-ever title.

The match is set at 4 p.m., preceded by the junior championship battle between San Beda and Letran and the awards ceremonies honoring the season's top individual performers.

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—San Beda vs Letran (Jrs-Game 2 Finals)
3:30 p.m.—Awarding Ceremonies
4 p.m.—Perpetual vs PCU (Srs-Game 2 Finals)

The Dolphins won Game 1 despite the absence of Tolentino, who served his one-game suspension for excessive complaining during PCU's semifinal game against Letran.

Tolentino stayed at the dugout, while his 25-year-old son Elvis took over the bench.

Perpetual, on the other hand, is looking for more than just plain and simple good fortune when it tries to force a winner-take-all showdown on Friday.

"It will be about defense. We have to limit their scoring in order to bounce back," said Altas coach Bai Cristobal, who was reportedly suffering from an ailment the past two days.

And it wasn't just Castro's clutch three-pointer that made Cristobal sick.

Dolphins main man Robert Sanz finished with 18 points and Rookie of the Year shoo-in Gabby Espinas posted another double-double performance with 16 points and 13 rebounds.

Perpetual drew the usual stellar performance from Noy Javier, who drained seven triples for a season-high 32 points, but got little help from the team's other lead scorers.

Conrad Fritz Bauzon (12.5 ppg) shot only five points, while Vladimir Joe (12 ppg) scored seven.

"*Pipilitin na namin manalo. Mahirap na pag binigyan pa namin sila ng pag-asa* (We'll go for the win. It's going to be hard if we give them hope)," said Tolentino.

San Beda also hopes to close out Letran for an unprecedented 15th high school title when the two teams meet at 2 p.m. The Red Cubs took Game 1 of the best-of-three, 87-77.

With GM title in bag, Mark winds up 2nd

Final standings: 11.0 points—IM R. Ovetchkin (Russia); **10.5**—IM Mark Paragua (RP), IM A. Obukhov (Turkmenistan); **9.5**—IM D. Neelotpal (India), IM J. Geller (Russia); **8.5**—IM Y. Kuzubov (Ukraine), IM S. Vokarev (Russia); **7.0**—IM O. Annageldyev (Turkmenistan); **6.5**—GM V. Shtyrenkov (Russia), GM A. Nikitin (Russia).

HIS grandmaster title already assured, Filipino ace Mark Paragua settled for second place Monday in the second leg of the Alushta tournament in Crimea, Ukraine.

PARAGUA

Russian IM Roman Ovetchkin ruled the 16-man tournament with 11.0 points, half a point ahead of Paragua and IM Alexsander Obukhov of Turkmenistan.

Paragua had a chance to share top honors with Ovetchkin but opted to avoid the aggressive line and agreed to a draw with fellow GM-elect Yuriy Kuzubov of Ukraine in the 15th and final round.

Paragua resumes his campaign in the Alushta series on Sept. 24, after which he will join the national team to the World Chess Olympiad slated Oct. 14-31 in Majorca, Spain. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

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POW PICK OF THE WEEK

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Wacky Logos	POWWACK	
Logos	POWLOGO	
Girl Logos	POWGAL	
Guy Logos	POWGUY	
Mono Ringtones	POWTONE	Say Something Anyway by Bellefire
Poly Ringtones	POWPOLY	Decoration (Pei Chen Pin) by Jerry Yan
OPM Ringtones	POWOPM	Kahit Sandali by Jennylyn Mercado
Rock Ringtones	POWROCK	The Break-Up Song by American Hi-Fi

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Title	Artist	Mono keyword	Title	Artist	Poly Keyword
For An Angel	Paul Van Dyk	TONE 4ANANGEL	Horny	Mousse T	POLY HORNY
Can You Handle It	Usher	TONE CANUHANDLE	Ladies Night	Atomic Kitten	POLY LADYSNYT
Weapon of Choice	Fatboy Slim	TONE WEAPON	Hey Ya	Outkast	POLY HEYYA
Dance With Me	Sisqo	TONE DNCEWME	Jumpin' Jumpin'	Destiny's Child	POLY JUMPIN
Forbidden Fruit	Paul Van Dyk	TONE 4BIDDEN	Groove Is In The Heart	Dee-Lite	POLY GROOVEIS
Bootylicious	Destiny's Child	TONE BOOTYLI	Sex And The City	Groove Armada	POLY SEXAND
Down Boy	Holly Valance	TONE DOWNBOY	Can't Get You Out Of My Head	Kylie Minogue	POLY CANTGET
Can't Get You Out Of My Head	Kylie Minogue	TONE CANTGETU	Be With You	Atomic Kitten	POLY BWYOU
Don't Call Me Baby	Madison Avenue	TONE CALLMEBABY	Let's Get It Started	Black Eyed Peas	POLY LETSGET
Frontin'	Pharrell & Jay-Z	TONE FRONTIN	Gimme The Light	Sean Paul	POLY GIMLIGHT
Let's Get It Started	Black Eyed Peas	TONE LETSGET	Don't Call Me Baby	Madison Avenue	POLY CALLMEBABY
Dancing Queen	ABBA	TONE DANCIQUEEN	Gossip Folks	Missy Elliott	POLY GOSSIP
If You Could Read My Mind	Stars on 54	TONE IFUCLDREAD	Dancing Queen	ABBA	POLY DANCEQUEEN
Be With You	Atomic Kitten	TONE BWYOU	Come Into My World	Kylie Minogue	POLY COMEINTO
No Letting Go	Wayne Wonder	TONE NOLET			

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MMS STREAMS
MSAVER DANCEPARTY
MSAVER SPINOUT
BFLOGO BF1
BFLOGO BF2
BFLOGO HK1
BFLOGO HK2
BFLOGO HK3
LOGO PRTYGRL
LOGO ILUVBEER
LOGO SPIN
LOGO RAVE1
LOGO PARTYAN1
LOGO BRKDANCE
LOGO DJMIX1
LOGO DJ
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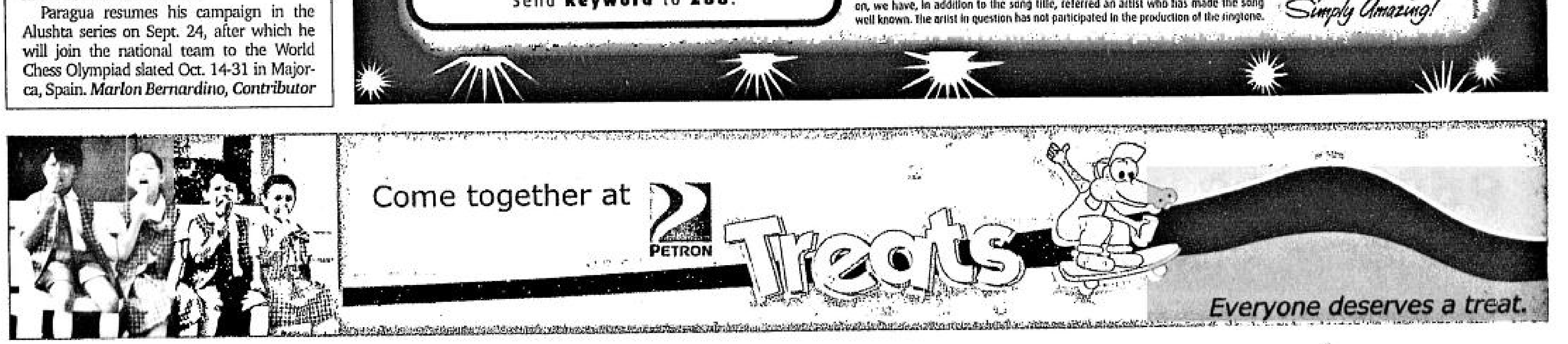
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Spartan SEAG calls for fewer golds at stake

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NEXT year's Southeast Asian Games in Manila will not only be austere in terms of hosting costs but also in the number of gold medals to be contested.

The target is 400 gold medals or less when the country takes its turn to host the biennial Games in November 2005, according to the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Which events to be cut from which sports disciplines will be tackled by the SEAG Federation council when it convenes on Oct. 11-12 at the New World Hotel.

Thirty or so delegates from 11 member nations will decide the final list of SEAG events, which is currently pegged at 412 in the 34 sports approved for inclusion.

Sources at the POC said the federation is likely to slash the number of events in wushu and shooting, among others.

Wushu listed 28 gold medals to be disputed, exceeding the new SEAG requirement of 5 percent of the total number of golds at stake. Shooting has 18 golds on the menu.

Swimming and track and field dangle the most number of gold medals with 43 each, but the sources said it's unlikely these events will be reduced because these are centerpiece events.

SUBIC BEACH VOLLEY: Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chair Felicito Payumo and former PSC commissioner Tisha Abundo watch footage of the 2004 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball on a giant screen during yesterday's PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion. Joyce Anne Realeza (left), one of the players who attended the forum, will again compete in the third leg of the tournament slated Sept. 24-25 at the Subic Bay sand courts. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Motoring program readies 10-K run

TELEVISION motoring program Auto Review marks its 10th year with the staging of the first Auto Review 10K Run for Road Safety and Courtesy on Oct. 10 at the Cultural Center complex in Pasay City. The advocacy run, intended to promote awareness on road safety, is open to all runners and will also have a 5K Open and Sponsors' category and 3K run for children 12 years and below in an out-and-back course that will traverse Roxas Blvd. Ron de los Reyes, producer-host of motoring show Auto Review and two-time Henry Ford Motoring Journalism awardee, said registration is ongoing at 5 Agusan Street, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City. For inquiries, call 742-0283 or 742-3091. Initial sponsors include Caltex Phils., Accel, Sports Gear, Asahi Glass Corp., Isuzu Phils., Ford Group, Mitsubishi Motors, Toyota Volvo, Red Bull.

Tan Ho, Alcantara stun seeds, join Olivarez in 2nd rd

FILIPINOS Joshua Tan Ho and Francis Casey Alcantara ousted their seeded rivals yesterday to reach the second round of the Futures Foundation-Asian Tennis Federation 14-Under Series at the Yñares Sports Center in Pasig City.

Tan Ho overpowered fourth seed Bo Zin of Myanmar, 6-0, 6-0, to advance against compatriot John Franc Gil Largo, who downed Christian Lee of Malaysia, 6-1, 7-6 (4).

Alcantara stunned Myanmar's Min Tar Pho, 7-5, 6-2, to set up a clash with Malaysia's Zhia Hwa Chong, who routed Juan Fidel Regis, 6-1, 6-0.

Pablo Olivarez, seeded first in this weeklong event sponsored by the Australian Open, demolished qualifier Simon Samaniego, 6-0, 6-0, to advance against Malaysian Mark Pee Kwang Xin, who thumped Filipino Kim Ivor Saraza, 6-0, 6-1.

Also scoring upsets were wild card Roman Floreza who shot down No.5 Ken Patrick Arevalo, 6-2, 6-2; Mark Balce who whipped No.7 Gerald Michael Ngo, 6-3, 6-3; and Miguel Narvaez who blasted No. 8 Mohd Fazre of Malaysia, 6-2, 6-1.

Other results: T. Apacible d. C. Espedido, 6-1, 6-0; K. Abadia d. P. Magaway, 6-2, 6-2; A. Ong Sy d. J. Peña, 6-1, 6-2; E. Santos (2) d. K. Cordero, 6-0, 6-0; K.N. Aung (Myanmar) d. R. Padigos, 6-3, 6-4; H.Z. Tan (Malaysia) d. E. Olivarez Jr., 6-3, 6-3; J. Cañete d. E. Lo, 6-2, 6-1. **Girls:** Z. Quitara d. E. Baba, 6-2, 6-1; A. Patrimonio d. M. Sotto, 6-0, 6-1; K. Serrano d. M. Ribaya, 6-0, 6-0; R. Santiago d. S. Dizon, 6-0, 7-5.

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6.The schedule for the draws are as follows:
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2nd monthly draw: November 7, 2004
3rd monthly draw: December 5, 2004.
Grand draw: January 9, 2005.
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11.Promo starts September 1, 2004 and ends December 31, 2004.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1030 series of 2004

Peñalosa: From tragedy to comedy

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE RESULT, a second-round knockout by a well-loved former world boxing champ, was sensational.

Nobody, except maybe Bernard Hopkins, could be gladder than Gerry Peñalosa after he scored that swift stoppage over a young Thai in Mandaue City on Sunday.

It was straight out of a movie, great for a fighter on a comeback trail.

It was perfect. Except for a hideous twist in the ending.

Peñalosa played his role to the letter. His foe overdid the victim's part in the script.

After suffering two knockdowns, Thailand's Samingkao Chautiful fainted when Peñalosa moved in for the kill.

No kidding. The Thai fell without taking another punch.

Warned the insightful chronicler Dennis Principe: "Wanna see how Peñalosa stopped his Thai foe just by his mere act of throwing a punch? Watch IBC News Tonight, 10:30 p.m. on IBC 13."

That was on Sunday.

It was the last thing I'd like to see—unacceptable on-fight kindness from a visiting boxer.

I skipped the newscast which Principe himself ably hosts.

***

Yesterday, Dennis Principe was on print, this time reporting from ringside for the Manila Bulletin:

"Peñalosa made a successful comeback from retirement with a second-round knockout of a Thai youngster who, fearing more punishment, appeared to have feigned being knocked down without taking a punch."

It was an honest, accurate reportage.

Except for one thing: it was far from a successful comeback.

Whoever hired the Thai comedian as Peñalosa's partner in his return appearance did the former world champ a great disservice.

Why? Well, it did not help push Gerry Boy's worth half a notch.

Peñalosa had asked for a mean and worthy foe.

He was handed out an early Christmas gift.

***

So where does Peñalosa go from here?

His career continues to be hounded by bad luck since his aborted WBC super flyweight title defense against Joel Luna Zarate, when he suffered a cut in the second round and the ring at the Cuneta Astrodome collapsed with former President Fidel Ramos on top.

That was on April 25, 1998.

Meanwhile, there are heartwarming reports that Peñalosa's former wife is now doing well in London with her two daughters, whom Gerry must've seen for the last time in a tragic dugout reunion minutes before that fateful defense against Zarate.

Texted a friend from Cebu: "The ex-wife, Esper, had gotten an annulment and is now enjoying good income working in UK. Got brand new car. Two daughters studying in good school."

Added the texter: "It's a pity, *kawawa* si Gerry. *Ensayado*, in tip-top condition but no good promoter like Atty. Rudy Salud. Gerry is like the Lost Command."

***

Now, enough of that *tsismis* and back into the ring.

After repeated title tries, a momentary retirement, loads of hard work, last Sunday's comedy was the least Peñalosa had deserved.

Given a better promoter who could have demanded a certified top-rate opponent, Peñalosa should've been well back on the road to another world title crack today.

Problem. It was not the first time we had to host sickening Thai patsies, either tuk-tuk drivers or waiters, hauled over here and fitted boxing gloves to play the role of willing victims to the hilt.

The Games and Amusements Board could insist it could not do anything about the repeated farce.

Truth is that Thai fight managers and promoters appear to be just returning the compliment.

Yes, it's open knowledge that, with the GAB playing blind, the Philippines also continues to export ready-to-lose boxers to Thailand.

Despite their hideous records, Pinoy boxers are certified to travel, compete and are routinely fed to their Thai foes to the delight of blood-thirsty ringside fans.

Too bad Peñalosa had to fall victim to this official irresponsibility.

After what he had done to the country, comic relief was the last thing Gerry Boy needed.

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URBL OPENER

Huskers debut

THE QUEZON Province Huskers battle Lactovitale-Cebu Province in the inaugural of the United Regional Basketball League at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday at the New Cebu Coliseum.

This will be the first time that Quezon, under the helm of Gov. Wilfrido Enverga, takes a direct involvement in basketball.

Handled by veteran coach Francis Rodriguez, the team took on the moniker Huskers to emphasize the importance of Quezon's coconut industry.

Multititled M. Lhuillier-Kwarta Padala of Cebu City and the Ilocos Sur Snipers collide at 3 p.m. Both games will be aired live over ABC-5 from 1-5 p.m. with the support of adidas.

Meanwhile, URBL Commissioner Ramon Fernandez said he hopes to spark greater interest in sports nationwide through the URBL.

Guesting at the PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion yesterday, Fernandez said the URBL hopes to create hometown heroes that will inspire the youth in their respective provinces to get into sports and physical fitness.

Gonzales gains nat'l chess lead

TAGAYTAY CITY—International Master Jayson Gonzales posted his third straight win at the expense of National Master Roland Joseph Perez in the fifth round yesterday to share the lead in the National Chess Championships at the Tagaytay International Convention Center here.

Gonzales now has 3.5 points, the same output of IM Chito Garma and NMs Rolando Nolte and Darwin Laylo. Garma drew with IM Barlo Nadera after 15 moves.

The event will determine the last three members of the men's team to the Chess Olympiad on Oct. 14-31 in Majorca, Spain.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

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Aguilar rules Camel moto

ROXAS CITY—Seven-time national champion Glen Aguilar underscored his billing as the country's No. 1 rider by ruling the kickoff leg of the 2004 Camel Supercross Championship Series here Sunday.

Aguilar swept all four races in the centerpiece Pro 125 and Pro Open categories to make a big head start in this three-part series organized by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa) and sponsored by Camel cigarettes.

The multititled campaigner from Las Piñas City and reigning FIM-Asian champion outdueled veteran Jovie Saulog of Shell-Speedshoppe and Bebet de la Cruz of Caltex before an overflow crowd at the Roxas City Stadium.

"I'm just so glad to win this prestigious event," said Caltex rider Aguilar, whose victory boosted his chances to represent the country in the FIM-Asian Supercross Championships in Macau next month.

Camel brand marketing manager Edward Cruz awarded the trophies and cash prizes to the winners. He was assisted by Namssa president Ken Falco, Namssa consultant for the Visayas Jojo Roldan and Fortune Tobacco officials led by Bonifacio Chua and Jerry Malmis.

AGUILAR: Sweep

Caltex took the team championship after six of its riders filled up six of the first eight places in both the Pro 125 and Pro Open classes.

Kenneth San Andres also stamped his class by finishing fourth in both the Pro 125 and Pro Open. He also swept the Novice 125 and Novice Open Production.

Jhonny Garcia, Jerry Beech and Alvin Beech also finished among the frontrunners in the Pro Open.

SPORTSWATCH

PBA hits Robinson's malls

PBA FANS get a chance to interact with their favorite players outside of the playing venue as the pro league lined up a series of activities at the various Robinson's malls beginning Saturday. Dubbed "One-on-One at Robinson's Malls," the event features touring displays like hand and shoe prints, a photo gallery, a giant inflatable basketball hoop, jersey and PBA merchandise booths. The PBA interactive centers are set up on two designated Robinson's malls each week till Oct. 31 to be spiced up by a rotation of visits by the players. Robinson's Place-Manila and Robinson's-Cainta will stage the inaugurals Sept. 25-Oct. 3 with Robinson's-Novaliches and Robinson's-Imus as the next hosts on Oct. 4-10. The event, organized by the PBA Properties Inc. and supported by Accel, Fedex, Mall and More, and Air 21, is also expected to drum up interest in the pro league, which kicks off its new season on Oct. 3 with the start of the PBA All-Filipino Cup pitting San Miguel Beer versus Talk 'N Text at the Araneta Coliseum.

Trento FC tops Agusan tilt

THE TRENTO Woodcarver's Football Club beat defending champion Patin-ay National High School, 2-1, in a shoot-out to take the top trophy of the Red Ribbon Football Fiesta at the D.O. Plaza Memorial Sports Complex in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur. The Trento squad had to travel two hours before clinching the victory, which ended at 1-1 after regulation on a goal each by Romer John Cultura of Patin-ay in the 19th minute and Jimbou Sinangote of the Woodcarvers. In the shoot-out, Jonmar Ely, Woodcarvers' goalkeeper, parried away four attempts to be the day's hero. Patin-ay National High's Rodolfo Duran was named Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

Greenwich draws 26 schools

TWENTY-SIX high school teams will see action in the inaugural Greenwich Girls Invitational Volleyball Tournament starting Sept. 25 at the Rizal High School in Pasig City. Among the schools are Colegio San Agustin, Assumption College, Grace Christian School, St. Paul-Pasig, Woodrose Alabang, OB Montessori Greenhills, Rizal High School, Diliman Preparatory School, Hope Christian School, Reedly International, St. Francis School-Manila, OB Montessori Las Piñas, OB Montessori Sta. Ana, ICA Dasmariñas, St. Mary's Academy, Caritas Don Bosco, ICA Greenhills, Olivarez College, Miriam College, Emilio Aguinaldo College, St. Jude Catholic School, Trinity College, International School Manila, Poveda Learning School, Southville Int'l School and JASMS.

GCAP derby resumes

SONNY Lagon of Cebu and partners Ramon Mancenares and Tony Faustino of Davao, the current leaders in the Stagfighter of the Year race, try to maintain their shaky lead when the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-Stag Derby series resumes tonight at the Las Piñas Coliseum. This will be the third of the seven-leg derby series. The fourth leg unfolds on Sept. 28. Meanwhile, Las Piñas Coliseum also presents the Clean Up 5-Stag Derby on Oct. 25. For details, contact 8743910 and 8731040 or 0920-5609404.

Sagupaan event tomorrow

THE CLASH of Metro Manila and Central Luzon cockers takes place tomorrow at the Pampanga Coliseum in San Fernando City. Dubbed as the Sagupaan Complexor 3000 5-Stag Derby, the event stakes P500,000. The Metro Manila and Central Luzon teams will be fielding in highly touted cockers in the event with an entry fee of P22,000, with a minimum bet of P11,000. For inquiries, contact 6963943 and 6398365.

LGBA series unfurls

THE LGBA stag series 2004 unfurls Sept. 25 at Roligon Mega Cockpit for the first-round eliminations. Action shifts to Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 27 and 29 for the second-round eliminations and championship. Among the favorites on the first day of eliminations at Roligon are the entries of Sonny Lagon, Jaime Arandia, Joey Lapid and Baby Canillas; Dr. Ayong Lorenzo, Charlie Carlos and Dr. Ding Jose, and Wilson Go and Don Neil de la Peña. For details, call 9267808/924-5072 (telefax), 9245051 local 128 or through 0920-5851940 (Look for Taz Lunasco).

Scribe's dad passes away

MAXIMO B. Oredo Sr., father of Tumbok sportswriter Lito Oredo, joined our Creator last Sept. 18 at the age of 72 due to cardiac arrest. His body lies in state at the San Jose chapel in Mandaluyong City. He is survived by wife Obdulia and children Nep, Nap, Adam, Jose, Imelda, Lito, Maximo Jr. and Gabriel. Interment will be on Friday at Mandaluyong Catholic Cemetery.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Swing Till Dawn 2. Tiger Shadow 3. Air Strike 4. Fighter

Race 2—1. Wabbied Forever/Walup Forever 2. Rivaldo 3. Juan Marco 4. Maple My Love 5. Hello Africa

Race 3—1. Lord of the Ring 2. Bullish Dream 3. Time to Party 4. Native Talent

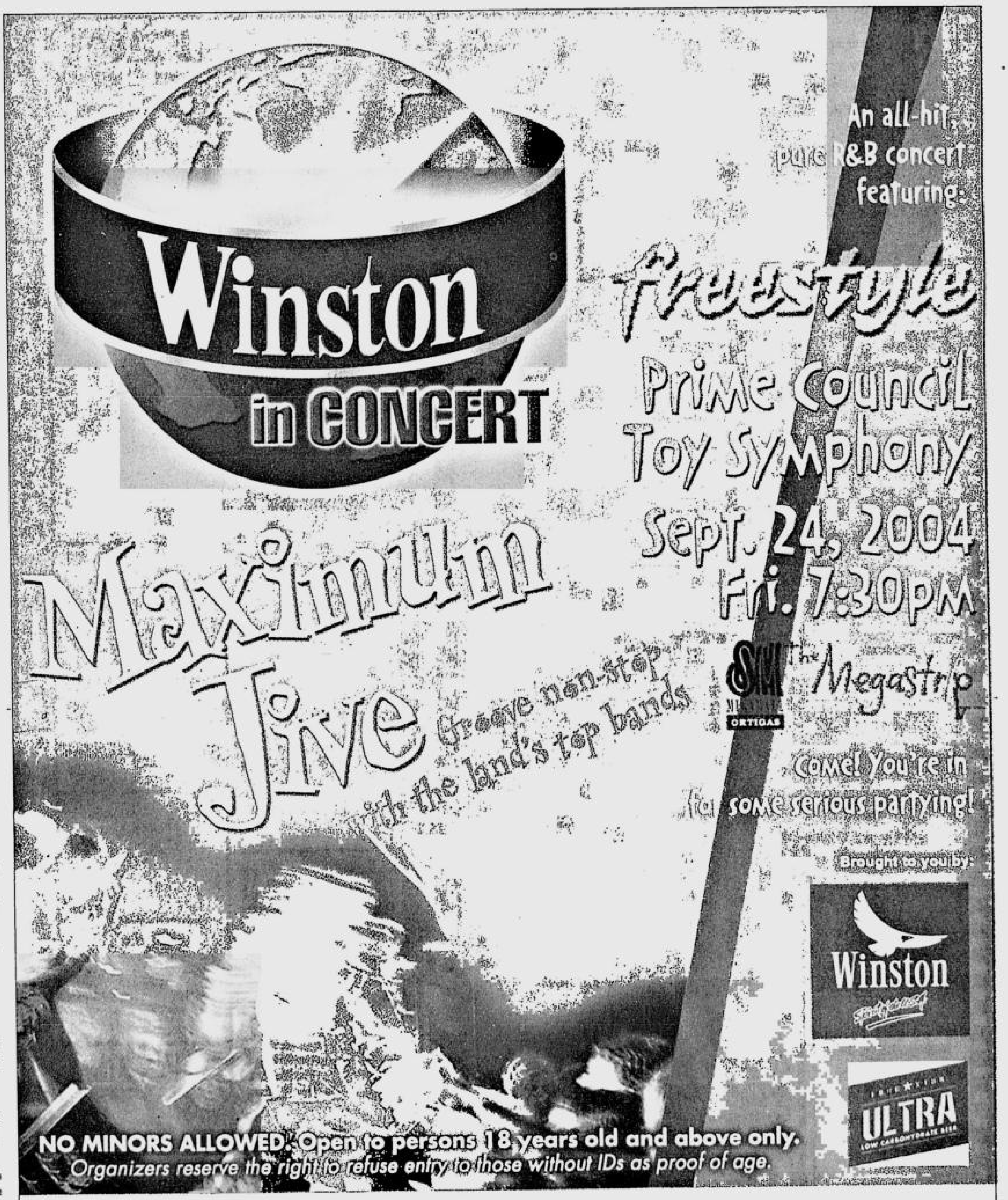
Race 4—1. Tribeca 2. Naughty 3. Sugar Ray 4. Sheza Slow 5. Stout Hearted

Race 5—1. Dow Jones 2. Musikero 3. Golden Harry 4. Prince Valiant

Race 6—1. Holy King 2. Strong Colony 3. Great Tower 4. Wings to Fly 5. Dynamic Jonjon

Race 7—1. Mr. Bonjing 2. Astimegoesby 3. God is Good 4. Big Bucks 5. Pride of Cebu

Race 8—1. Solid North 2. Gifted Angel 3. Parrot Moe 4. Iron Will 5. Zero Gravity 6. Silver Lining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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: *Kung hindi ako sexy, gusto ko maging* management.

(Talaga ha?)

***

Host: What do you think were the best assets or talents you were born with?

Guest: Born with? *Saan ako ipinanganak? Ang* province *ko* is Davao.

(No comment)

***

Host: Would you agree to undergoing plastic surgery? What for?

Guest: *Siyempre, para magpaganda* for the *sfonsor—para lalong maganda ako sa aming* fictorial.

(Falakfak *naman diyan*!)

***

Host: What would the effect of plastic surgery be on you, do you think?

Guest: *'Pag nagparetoke ako, 'yun ang magbibigay sa akin ng* confident!

(Misplaced *nga lang*!)

***

Host: What kind of role do you want to play in your first starring movie?

Guest: *Siguro*, sex comedy *ang magiging ano ko.*

(Anong ano? Tigilan mo nga kami...)

***

Host: In your restaurant, what is the dish that people order most often?

Guest: Definitely, *yung* cristy *pata*.

(*Ang pata ni* Cristy? Wow, *sarap nu'n*.)

***

Host: What do you think is your edge over other sexy actresses?

Guest: Edge *ko*? Age? *Edad*? Twenty-one *na ako ngayon.*

(No comment *na naman*!)

***

Host: What is your motto?

Guest: *Siyempre, gusto kong yumaman!*

(Motto *ba yon? Hindi, a.*)

***

Host: Will you apologize to the people who say you did them wrong?

Guest: I will—I apologize *talaga*! And, *uulitin ko*, for a second again, I'm sorry.

(*Ay*, for a second again!).

***

Host: What was your feeling after your conjoined twins were surgically separated?

Guest: Of course, I'm proud to say to the world, I have two alive boys and normal!

(Quote, unquote.)

***

Host: How can our viewers get tickets to your concert?

Guest: Just stay tuned to this show, *mamimigay kami* today *ng* three tickets for two. *Teka, tama ba 'yon?*

(Aba, ewan namin sa 'yo!)

***

Host: What is the weather advisory for students today?

Co-host: The latest

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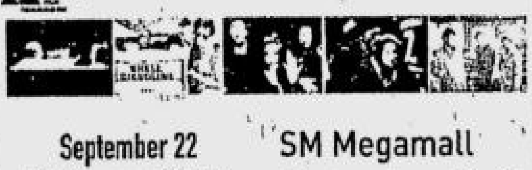

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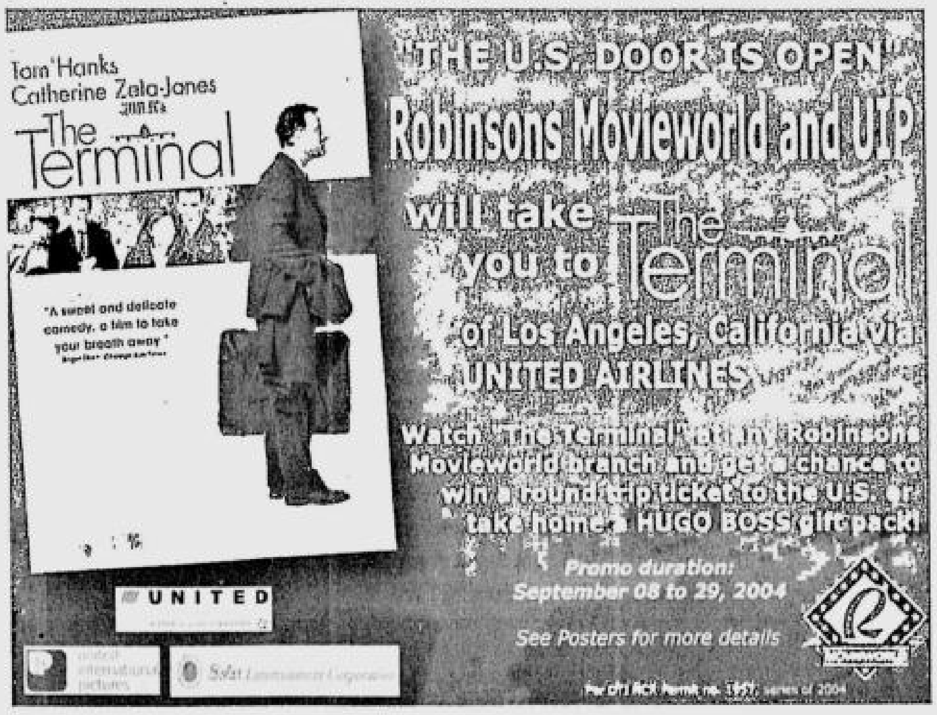
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2 (DOLBY) LAWS OF ATTRACTION
3 (DTS) EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 STEPFORD WIVES
2 FENG SHUI
3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 FENG SHUI
2 TOOLBOX MURDER
3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
4 (DTS) 13 GOING ON 30

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320

1 THE TERMINAL
2 FENG SHUI
3 (DOLBY) EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) ANACONDAS
2 TAMPISAW
3 TAKAW TINGIN
4 (DTS) FENG SHUI

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2 BIKTIMA
3 (DTS)
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED
5 FENG SHUI

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 DODGEBALL
2 THE TERMINAL
3 (DTS) ANACONDAS
4 (DOLBY) FENG SHUI

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 FENG SHUI
2 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
3 TAG-INIT
4 THE TERMINAL

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 . 879.2029

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Cristy pata . . .

From page A28

report for today is, due to the rains and floods, clashes have been suspended.

(*O, wala raw pashok ngayon!*)

'Crossings'

This month, "Crossings" on Discovery Channel features Chinese explorer **Wong How Man.** He is the founder and president of the China Exploration and Research Society and is regarded as one of China's leading experts on exploration and conservation. The eighth episode of "Crossings" will be telecast at 7 p.m. on Sept. 26, with a replay at 11 p.m. on Sept. 29.

Indian Thali food festival

Spices at The Peninsula Manila is holding (until Oct. 17) an Indian Thali food festival featuring delicious vegetarian and non-vegetarian thali dishes created by Spices Indian specialty chef **Bairagi Sahani.** Call 887-2888.

'The Passion' on DVD

The DVD of "The Passion of the Christ," **Mel Gibson's** biblical epic on the last 12 hours in the life of Jesus, sold more than 4 million copies on its first day of release.

The film starring **Jim Caviezel** has earned more than $600 million worldwide, making it one of the highest grossing movies of 2004.

Filmed in Aramaic and Latin, the DVD comes with both English and Tagalog subtitles. The VCD and DVD are available at all Video City, Astrovision and Odyssey outlets nationwide.

DID YOU KNOW...

COMEDY king **Dolphy** was seen two Sunday nights ago at Greenbelt 1 in Makati on his way to watch Spielberg's "The Terminal." The star of "Home Along da Airport" was in white long sleeves, white pants and white Nike cap. He was accompanied by a middle-aged woman who was definitely not his live-in partner **Zsa Zsa Padilla.**

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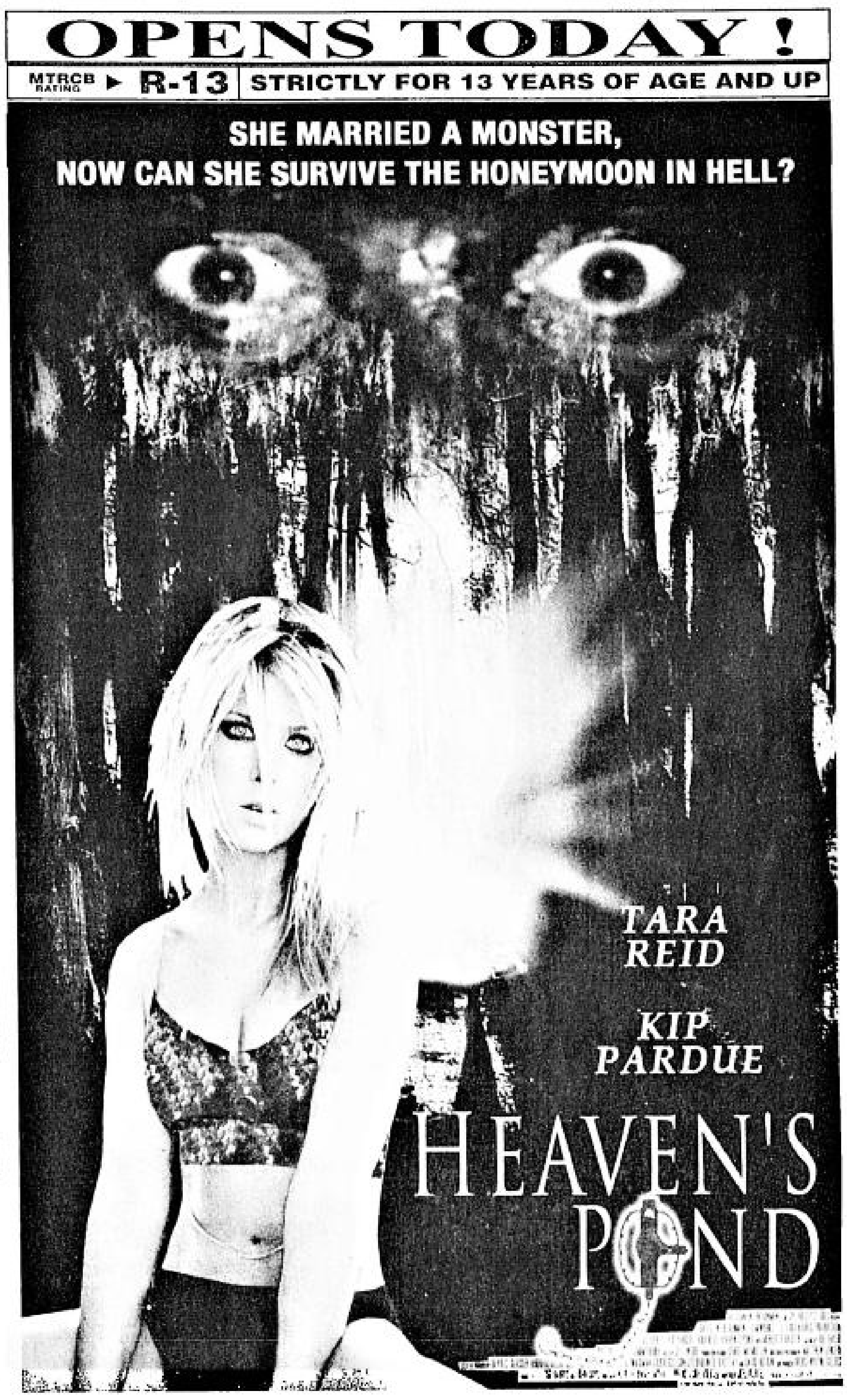
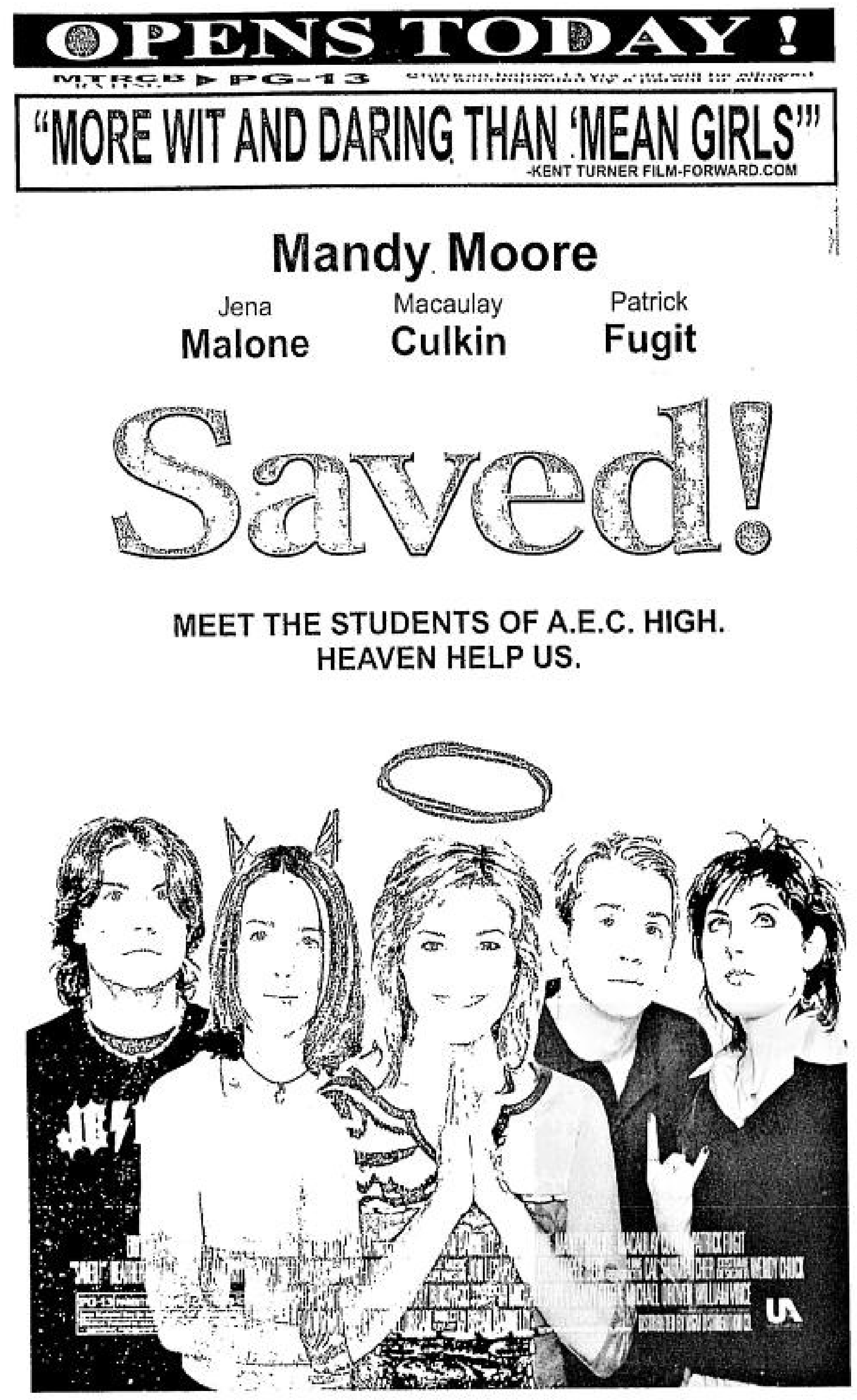
1 FENG SHUI 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 10:20 PG-13
2 BOURNE SUPREMACY 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 10:00 R-13
3 THE TERMINAL 11:05, 2:00, 4:55, 7:50, 10:45 GP
4 THE EXORCIST 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30 PG-13


OPENS TODAY!
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
SHE MARRIED A MONSTER,
NOW CAN SHE SURVIVE THE HONEYMOON IN HELL?
TARA REID
KIP PARDUE
HEAVEN'S POND


OPENS TODAY!
MTRCB ▶ PG-13
"MORE WIT AND DARING THAN 'MEAN GIRLS'"
-KENT TURNER FILM-FORWARD.COM
Mandy Moore
Jena Malone
Macaulay Culkin
Patrick Fugit
Saved!
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HEAVEN HELP US.
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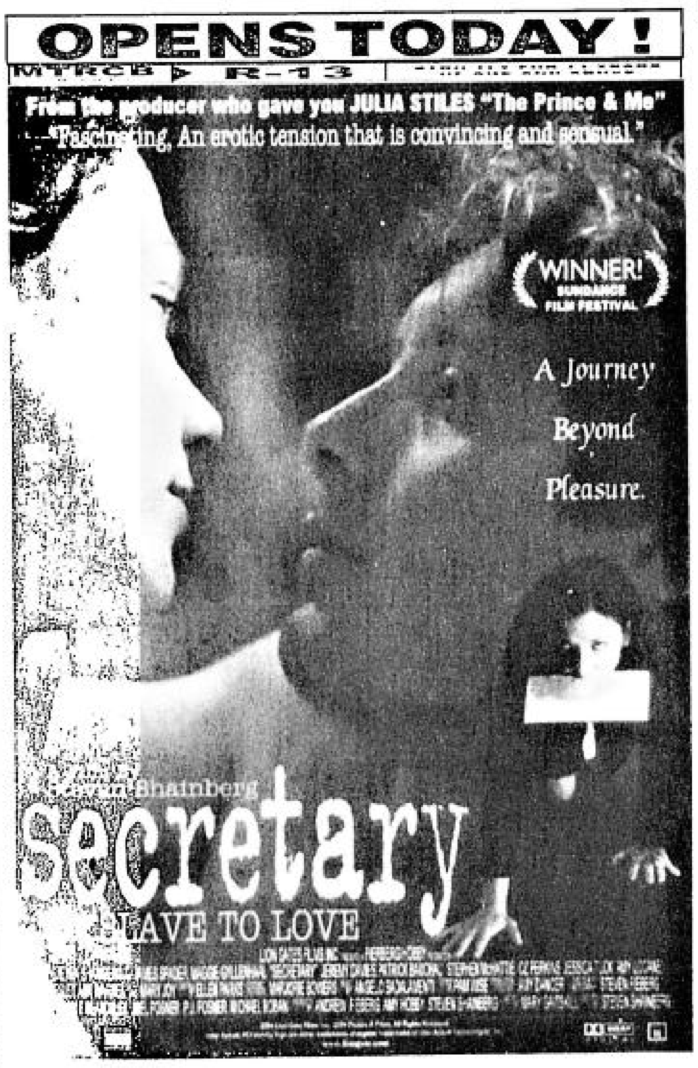
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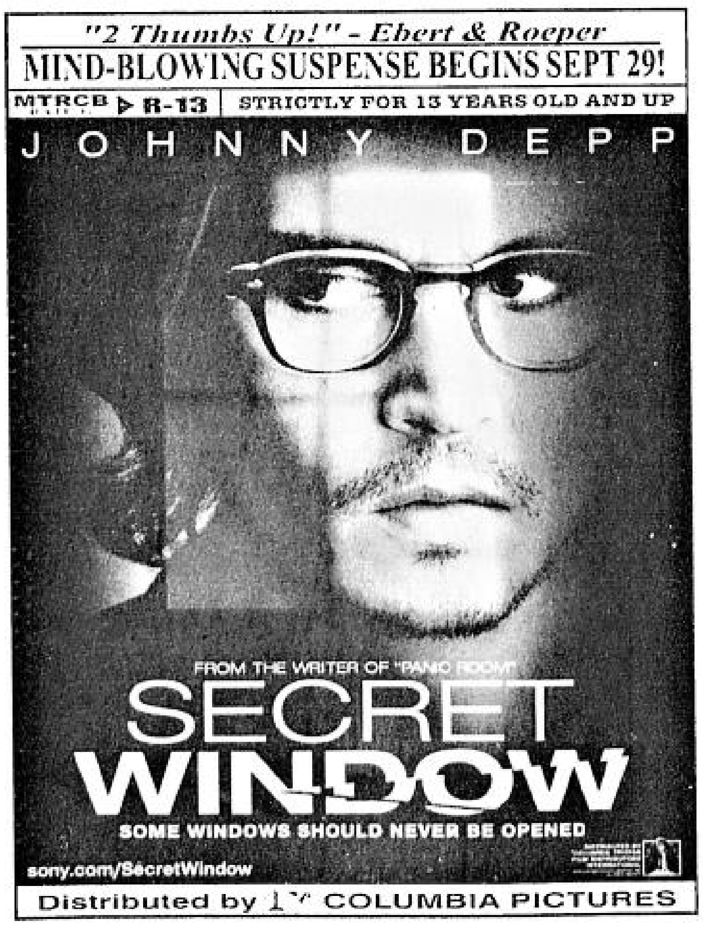
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MIND-BLOWING SUSPENSE BEGINS SEPT 29!
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JOHNNY DEPP
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"A FEEL GOOD COMEDY THAT WILL KEEP YOU SMILING."
"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A TEEN TO ENJOY '13 GOING ON 30.'"
jennifer garner
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SAVED PG13 11:40,1:50,4:00, 6:10,8:20,10:30	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY PG13 12:00,2:15,4:30,6:45,9:00	THE TERMINAL GP 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30
FENG SHUI PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING R13 12:10,2:35,5:00,7:25,9:50	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY PG13 1:30,3:45,6:00,8:15,10:20

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2 BOURNE SUPREMACY FS 10:50AM 1:05PM 3:20PM 5:35PM, 7:50PM LMF 10:05PM (PG - 13)
3 THE TERMINAL FS 12:40PM 3:20PM, 6:00PM LMF 8:40PM (GP)
4 EXORCIST FS 11:45AM 2:00PM 4:15PM, 6:30PM LMF 8:45PM (R - 13)
PREMIERE THEATRE BOURNE SUPREMACY FS 12:35PM, 2:50PM, 5:05PM, 7:20PM LMF 9:35PM (PG - 13)
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7 SECRETARY
8 FENG SHUI
9 THE NOTEBOOK
10 THE TERMINAL

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ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 13 GOING ON 30
3 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4 SECRETARY
5 HEAVEN'S POND
6 FENG SHUI
7 SAVED

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 HEAVEN'S POND
2 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
3 THE TERMINAL
4 SAVED
5 TAKAW TINGIN
6 13 GOING ON 30
7 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
8 FENG SHUI

NOVALICHES 935-3229 / 31

1 EXORCIST:THE BEGINNING
2 MINDHUNTERS
3 FENG SHUI
4 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
5 THE TERMINAL
6 13 GOING ON 30
7 SAVED
8 ANACONDAS

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1 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2 FENG SHUI
3 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
4 TAKAW TINGIN

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1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 FENG SHUI
3 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
4 TAKAW TINGIN

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1 THE TERMINAL
2 13 GOING ON 30
3 TAG-INIT
4 FENG SHUI
5 ANACONDAS

STA. ROSA (049)837-0907

1 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3 FENG SHUI
4 LAWS OF ATTRACTIONS
5 THUNDERBIRDS

DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332

1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 13 GOING ON 30
3 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
4 MINDHUNTERS
5 FENG SHUI

ANGELES

1 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2 FENG SHUI
3 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
4 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

STARMILLS San Fernando, Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270

1 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS
2 TAG-INIT
3 FENG SHUI
4 THE NOTEBOOK
5 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
6 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858

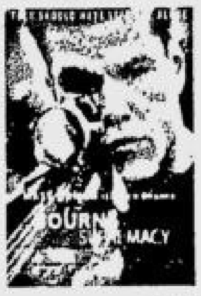
1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 MINDHUNTERS
3 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
4 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5 FENG SHUI
6 JANDARA

BACOLOD 441-0458/59

1 ANACONDAS
2 THE TERMINAL
3 FENG SHUI
4 DODGEBALL
5 HAMOG
6 THE ALAMO

ILOILO 336-8070/78

1 ANACONDAS
2 DODGEBALL
3 FENG SHUI
4 THE TERMINAL
5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
6 THE NOTEBOOK



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ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	1 FENG SHUI	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 SAVED 2 35, 4 45, 6 55, 9 05, 11 15	1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 SAVED	2 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING	2 SAVED	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 1 50, 4 00, 6.10, 8 20, 10 30	2 THE NOTEBOOK
3 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING	3 HEAVEN'S POND	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 EXORCIST 12 50, 3 15, 5 40, 8 05, 10 30	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING 2 15, 4 40, 7 05, 9 30	3 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
4 THE TERMINAL	4 FENG SHUI	4 13 GOING ON 30	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 FENG SHUI 2 10, 4 30, 6 50, 9 10, 11 30	4 FENG SHUI
5 FENG SHUI		5 THE NOTEBOOK	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 THE TERMINAL 1 30, 4 00, 6 30, 9 00, 11 30	5 THE TERMINAL
		6 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY		
		7 THE TERMINAL		

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 SAVED 1:05, 3 15, 5 25, 7 35, 9 45
2 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 12 50, 3 00, 5 10, 7 20, 9 30

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
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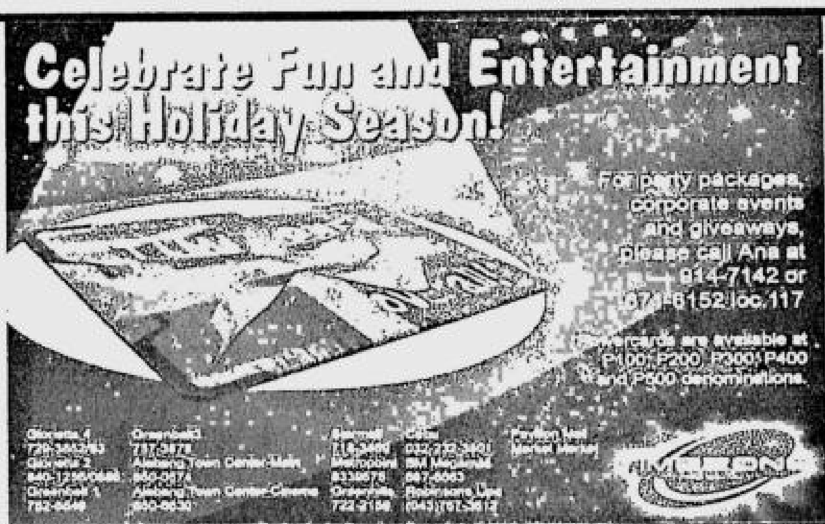

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Love'Mall!

'Mayors should run film fest'

From page A31

movie actor and former producer, had represented the mayors in the film festival, according to Atienza. Malonzo was co-overall chair of the executive committee and chair of the selection committee. He finished serving his last term as Caloocan mayor last June.

"Malonzo represented the mayors," said Atienza. "He was the one running the show. That was not a problem with us.

"But Fernando has a big problem with the mayors," he added. "He has this bad habit of running things by himself, of doing what he wants to do in Metro Manila without considering local programs and sensitivities.

"These problems should be solved first before we can talk about the film festival. He wants to do everything by himself. Unless he reforms, he would find it difficult to be the coordinator of the Metro Manila Film Festival and other projects in Metro Manila."

Atienza himself has been on top of the Manila Film Festival, held each June, since it was revived in 2002.

"Comparatively, we have gained more grounds in trying to promote the progress of the local film industry, which really needs, very badly, government support," he said.

Manila incentives

He noted that the Manila Film Festival had started to give incentives to the finalists: P100,000 for every script chosen during the selection process, and P1 million for the producer of every film that becomes a finalist.

"In Manila, we continue to support the local film industry," he said. "Manila led in the effort to reduce amusement taxes. We did this two years ago. We continue to promote the movie industry because it is not only the most effective medium of development but it also can be developed into one of the pillars of the economy if properly harnessed."

He noted that the Asian film markets today are booming, but these are dominated by filmmakers from India and Hong Kong.

"In the '50s and '60s, Filipino filmmakers monopolized the Asian film market," he said. "Now, we don't even have the capacity to compete."

But he is not about to give up in supporting an industry which local producers and directors say is dying.

"The industry needs government support now more than ever," Atienza said. "Let's not help kill it."

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor Louie C. Camino

'Mayors should run film fest'

Atienza: (Fernando) has this bad habit of doing what he wants to do without considering local programs and sensitivities

By Nini Valera

METRO Manila mayors must be the ones running the Metro Manila Film Festival and not the Metro Manila Development Authority, according to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

"(The mayors) have not been involved at all by MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando," Atienza told INQUIRER Entertainment recently.

The full participation of the mayors would assure the success of the film fest, according to Atienza, who claimed he has not been apprised of what's happening in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival, which will be held in December.

"We are the only ones who can exempt films in the festival from amusement taxes," Atienza pointed out. "Otherwise, there could be no exemption from these taxes. With our involvement also comes maximum participation of communities. Without that, a festival would be difficult to manage."

He predicted that the festival would be a flop without the mayors.

"The success of the festival would be compromised," Atienza warned. "I don't think there would be a problem if the MMDA would accept that it could not run the film fest. If the MMDA proceeds to hold the festival on its own, I can imagine what a disaster it would be."

No participation

Former Caloocan Mayor Rey Malonzo first broached the suggestion that the Metro Manila Mayors' Council run the Metro Manila Film Festival in the face of complaints from producers that this year's derby had been dominated by producer Lily Monteverde, who is said to be behind four of the eight movies that qualified.

Producers and directors have also complained about 'the arbitrary changing of rules in the film festival.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando is the overall chair of the MMFF executive committee. MMDA Director Cora Cruz is chair of the selection committee, which picked the eight film finalists this year.

Atienza stressed that the mayors had not participated in the decision-making process in the film festival. He added he was not aware that an execom and a screening committee for the film fest had been formed and are now functioning.

He said, "Cora Cruz as chair of the selection committee? I don't think that decision has the concurrence of the mayors. I wouldn't agree with that."

BF's problem

In the past few years, Malonzo, a

MAYORS/ A30

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3	Dolby	FENG SHUI	11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
4	SDDS	BOURNE SUPREMACY	12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
5	dts	EXORCIST	12.10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
6	Dolby	HEAVEN'S POND	12:00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm
7	Dolby	SAVED	12 15 pm 2:30 pm 4:45 pm 7:00 pm 9:15 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Sep 22	UPHDS vs P C U
Sep 23	LA SALLE vs F E U
Sep 24	UPHDS vs P C U (if necessary)
Sep 25	BLUE Live in Manila
Sep 26	LA SALLE vs F E U
Sep 30	LA SALLE vs F E U (if necessary)
Dec 11	JULIO IGLESIAS CONCERT
Dec 25	DISNEY ON ICE : Princess Classics

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THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
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ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	TAKAW TINGIN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	TAKAW TINGIN
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	THE NOTEBOOK/THE TERMINAL/PRINCESS DIARIES 2/DODGEBALL
PREMIERE THEATRE	ANACONDAS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MINDHUNTERS
CINEMA-2	TAKAW TINGIN
CINEMA-3	13 GOING ON 30
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINAL
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BETTER THAN SEX
CINEMA-6	NOTEBOOK
CINEMA-7	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
CINEMA-8	HAUNTED SPIRIT 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXORCIST
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SAVED
CINEMA-12	HEAVENS POND
CINEMA-14	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-15	FENG SHUI

LORES

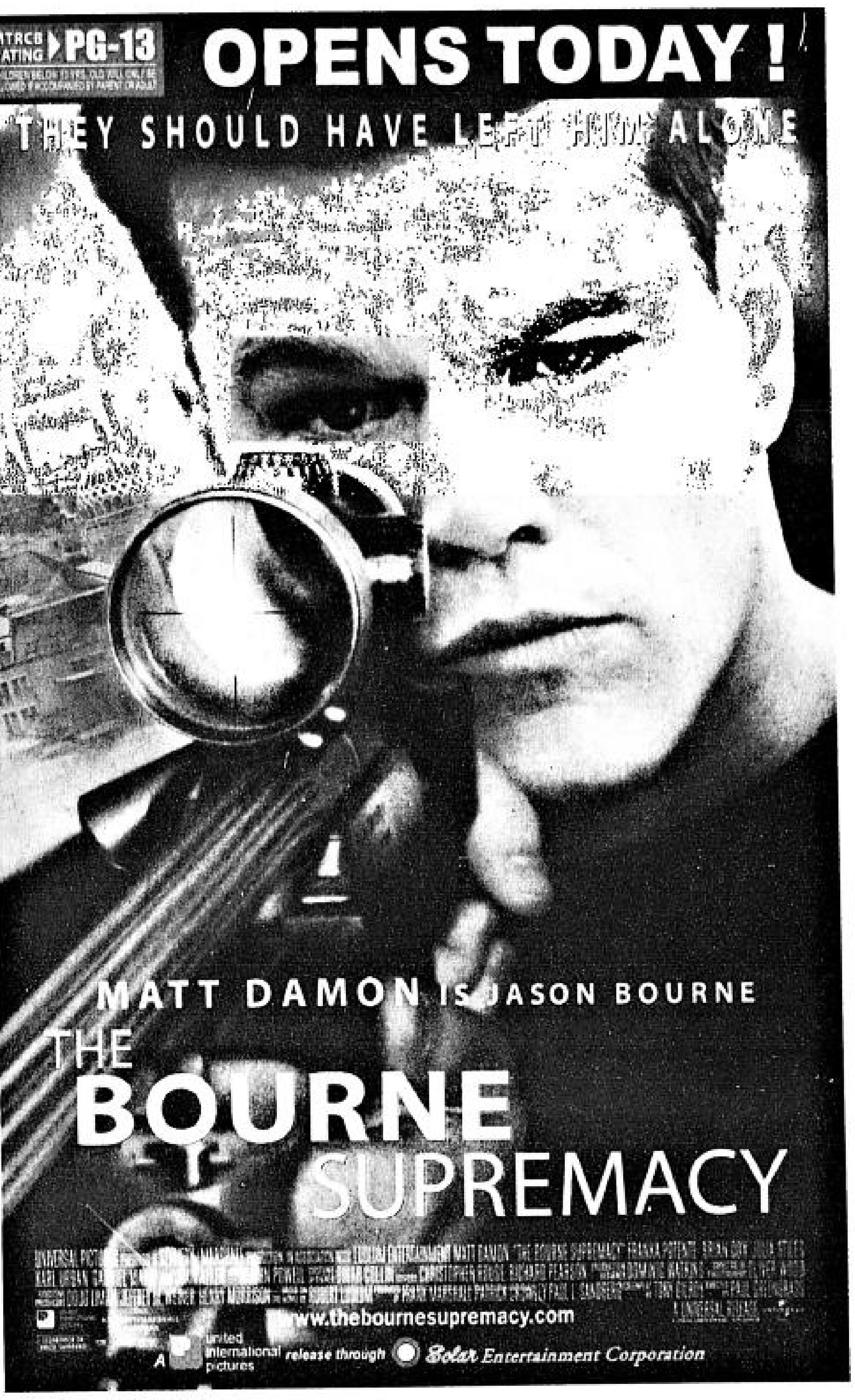
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	DODGEBALL
CINEMA-4	TERMINAL

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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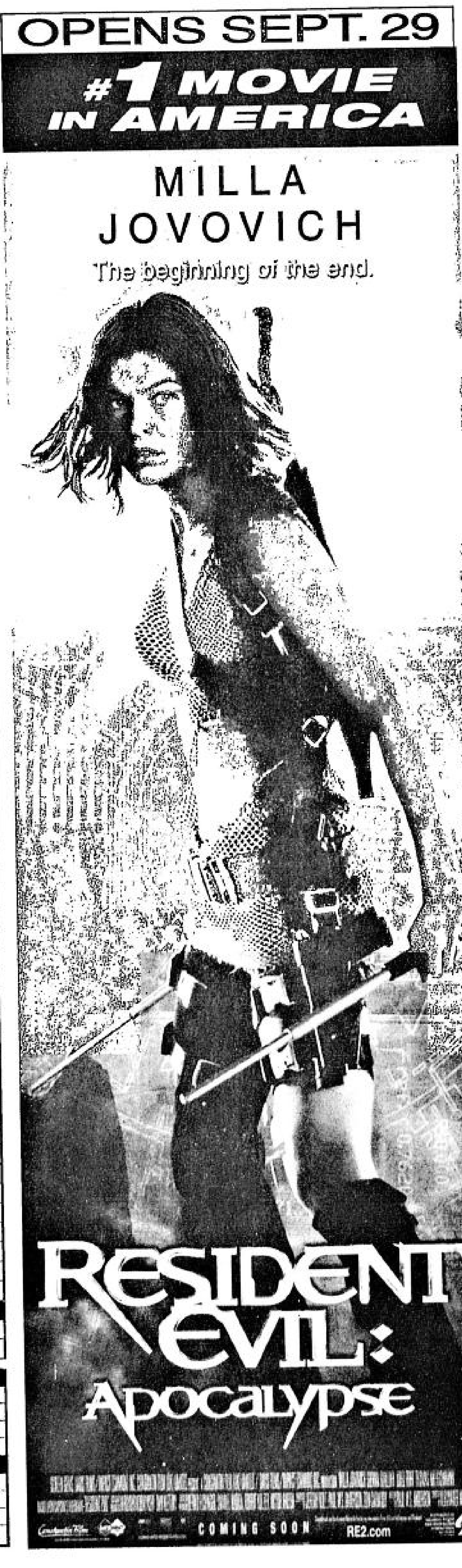

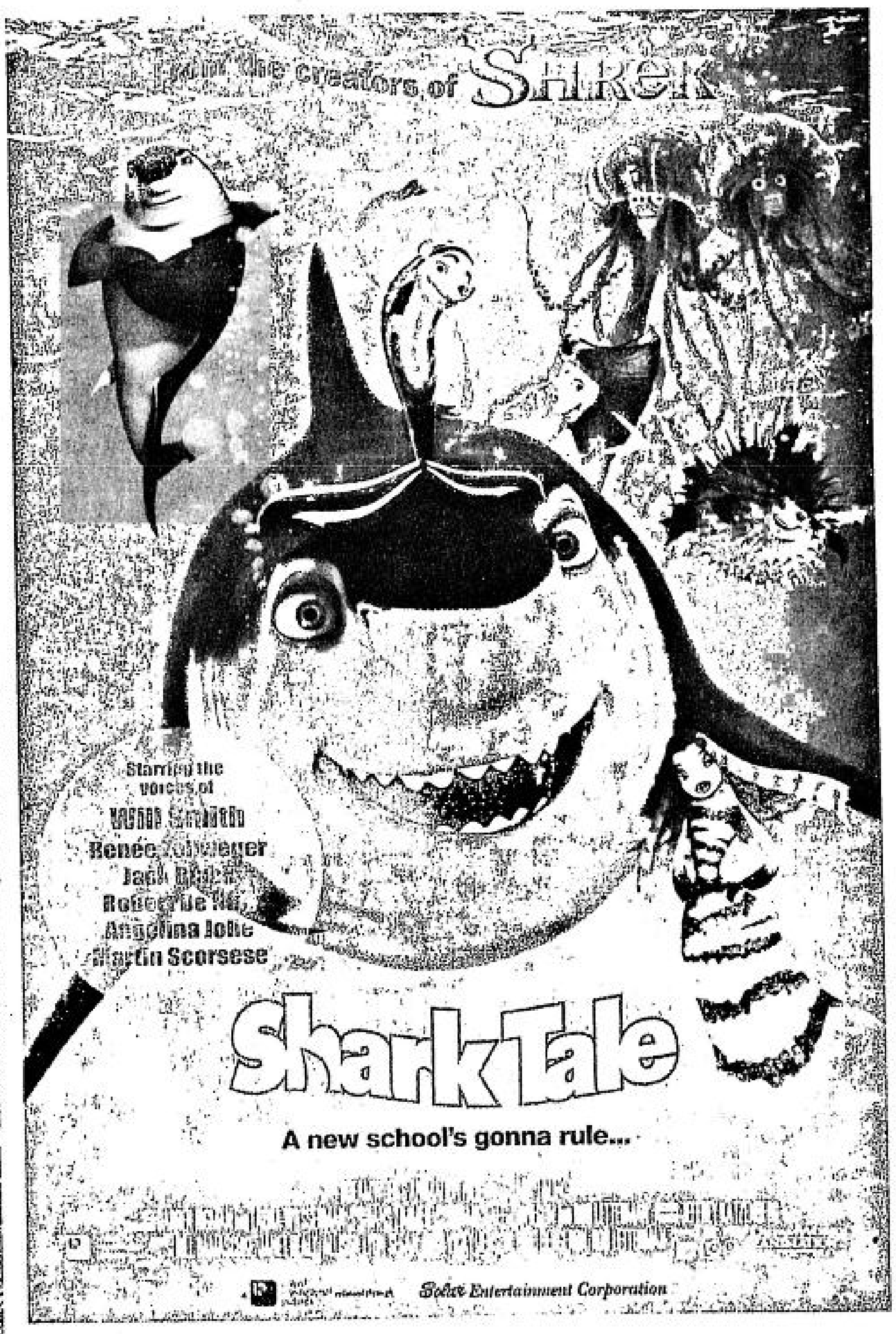

ASIA'S EROTIC PHENOMENON
Jan Dara

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

proudly brings you
the exclusive screening of
ASIA'S EROTIC PHENOMENON
Jan Dara
at Robinsons Movieworld
IMUS

CAST:
Viapavee Charoenpua, Christy Chung, Suwinit Panjamawat
SYNOPSIS:
Jan Dara is a film set in the moody and turbulent Thailand of the 1930s Jan Dara is the name of a Thai young man whose earliest memories recall his own father having sex with his childhood nanny In this lopsided and obsessive world At the tender age of thirteen, he was cast out of his comfortable but troubled household after his stepsister accused him of rape. Years later Jan Dara returns home to seek revenge on his father by outdoing his father's sexual conquests and making him be witness to his triumphs he is unwittingly becoming the man that he dreads most

MTRCB Rating: R18

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3. Get a text reply to know if you've won any of these instant prizes:

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4. Or, get a text reply with the letter C, O, K, E. Complete all 4 letters to form the word "COKE" and win 1 Million Pesos!
5. Claim your prizes at: The Coca-Cola Head office, 4/F King's Court Bldg 2, 2129 Pasong Tamo, Makati City.

*Promo runs from August 1-September 30, 2004. Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0711 Series of 2004.

OLYMPIC VILLAGE SPALDING

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8-month budget gap on target at ₱111.1B

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL government's budget deficit declined by 2.17 percent in the first eight months of the year to P111.1 billion compared with the same period in 2003, as higher revenue collection offset increases in spending.

According to the Department of Finance, tight monitoring of expenditures and efforts to increase revenue collection, specially by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, helped the government achieve the relatively low deficit.

"The eight-month cumulative deficit figure makes the government well on track to meet its full-year budget-deficit target of P197.8 billion," Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto said yesterday.

Government data showed that revenue generated from January to August reached P462.4 billion, or higher than the P408.36 billion collected during the same period last year. Expenditure, on the other hand, increased to P573.5 billion from P521.921 billion.

The 8-month deficit figure gives the government leeway to incur a budget gap of P86.7 billion for the remaining four months of 2004, or P21.68 billion for each month, to meet the full-year target of P197.8 billion. Recto said the government was in a very comfortable position, considering that with the full-year target of P197.8 billion, it should practically be limiting its budget gap to only P16.48 billion per month.

In August alone, the government collected P59.7 billion, or higher than the P51.12 billion collected in the same month of 2003. The increase in revenue collection was largely contributed by the BIR, which accounts for more than 80 percent of government's revenue. The BIR collected P43.13 billion in August, slightly surpassing its P43.11-billion target.

The BIR, which is tasked to collect P477 billion this year to help the government ease its budget woes, earlier said it was confident of meeting its full-year target despite missing its collection goals in the earlier months of the year. The BIR said it had initiated various tax collection-enhancement programs, such as the tax auditing of each industry group, to further boost revenue performance.

The BIR is currently going after several members of the banking industry for about P38 billion in back taxes on foreign currency loans and penalties from 1997 and prior years.

The BIR said it was also setting its sight on other industry groups, from which huge tax leakages are suspected. It is also planning to come up with a tax manual for every industry to set standard tax payment and auditing rules for enhanced revenue collection.

The government, faced with a serious fiscal problem, is hard-pressed to meet its budget deficit target for the year to prove to the international community that it is capable of averting a looming fiscal crisis.

The government is hoping to gradually trim the budget deficit until it reaches zero by 2009 or 2010, or before the end of President Macapagal-Arroyo's term.

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CURRENCIES

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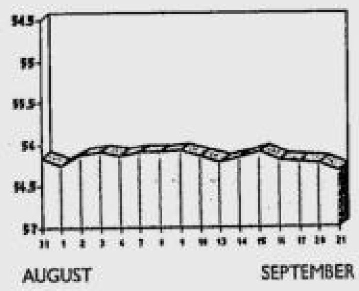

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As of 5 p.m., Sept. 21, 2004

¥ 109.95 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 21, 2004

GOLD: $404.30-404.80
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STOCK MARKET

Shares close up 1.09%

SHARES prices closed up 1.09 percent yesterday, as buying interest in leading large caps helped offset profit taking in index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT), dealers said.

They noted that after a brief consolidation the market appears poised for another sustained run-up.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed up 18.47 points at the day's high of 1,720.68. It hit a low of 1,700.42.

Volume fell to 908.2 million shares but value rose to P880.2 million from Monday's 1.04 billion shares valued at P658.03 million.

The broader all-shares index closed down 1.34 points at 1,081.78.

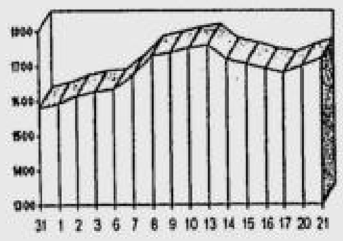
Losers edged gainers 32 to 29, while 46 stocks were unchanged.

"After a consolidation period, I think there's room for another rally," said Elena Ponceca of Unicapital Securities.

Investor sentiment remained generally upbeat on hopes for strong corporate earnings growth this year, she said.

But concerns over a possible credit rating downgrade for the country, as the government struggles to deal with its fiscal deficit problem, remains a drag on prices.

The national government announced before the market closed that its budget deficit for August reached P11.7 billion, widening the fiscal gap to P111.1 billion for the first eight months of the year. *AFP*



(See stock market report on Page B2)

PNOC unit to tap Malampaya oil reserves

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC) is in talks with a local group on a possible joint venture to develop the oil reserves at the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project in northwest Palawan.

This followed the decision of the foreign members of the Malampaya consortium--Shell Philippines Exploration BV (Spex) and Chevron Texaco Philippines Inc.—earlier in the year not to undertake the oil exploration component of the project due to insufficient volumes.

While already finished with its own reevaluation of the Malampaya oil reserves, the recently resigned PNOC-EC president Rufino Bomasang said the state firm needed a "second opinion" so as to determine the potential oil reserves in the area as well as the feasibility of extracting and developing these.

The second study, this time to be done by the firm that PNOC-EC is in talks with, should last six to eight months, he said.

By the end of the month, he said an agreement to undertake the study on the Malampaya oil reserves should be forged with the local group, he added.

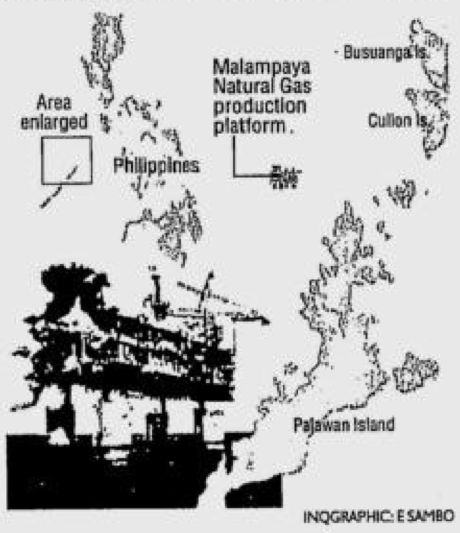
He declined to name which group the state firm was negotiating with, saying only that the local private sector investor had a foreign component.

"We're talking to a prospective partner from the private sector because we have to spend some money (on the study)," he said. "We've finished our study. We're just getting a second opinion."

Spex and Chevron Texaco, both multinationals having numerous other exploration contracts in other parts of the world, deemed the Malampaya reserves of between 25 mil-

PNOC/B2

Malampaya



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Vice President for HRD & Corporate Planning

CDI Sakata Inx Corporation is a joint venture company with Sakata Inx Corporation, a leading Japanese company and fifth largest printing ink manufacturer in the world.

CDI, then known as Chemical Dispersions, Inc. was incorporated on September 22, 1964. Since that time, it has been transformed into one of the prime manufacturers of metal coatings, glass enamels, and printing inks. The construction of its manufacturing facility in Alabang Hills in Muntinlupa City, and continuous upgrading of production and laboratory testing equipment in succeeding years, provided CDI with the necessary capability to cope with the needs of its growing clientele.

From 1967 to 1992, CDI's license agreements with Coates Brothers in the United Kingdom created a significant impetus in the development of excellent quality products. This provided CDI with unparalleled image that attracted a large share of the packaging industry. Key personnel, trained in Europe, USA, Singapore, Japan and other countries, boosted its ability for technical innovation and improved customer servicing.

In 1992, CDI became CDI Sakata Inx Corporation when Sakata Inx Corporation became its partner. This formal unification ushered in a progressive stream of technical developments and a worldwide network that further strengthened the firm's position in local and export markets. In line with its thrust for excellence, CDI Sakata Inx Corporation was granted ISO 9002 certification in 1996 and has since, gained a prestigious reputation as a reliable quality producer.

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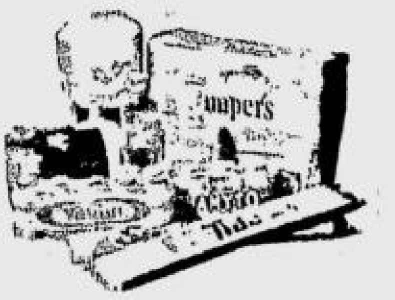

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ATM networks in merger talks

By Doris C. Dumlao

AUTOMATED teller machine operators Megalink and ExpressNet have entered into "serious" merger talks to make their operations more efficient.

"It's true that there are already serious talks. The discussions have gone far, but as to specific plans and timetable, nothing has been firmed up," a banker privy to the discussions told the INQUIRER.

In a separate interview, Land Bank of the Philippines executive vice president Gilda Pico told reporters the two networks had begun merger talks but a lot of issues would have to be resolved.

Of the three ATM networks in the country, Pico said Megalink and Expressnet were the first ones to hatch merger possibilities because they were already interconnected.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura earlier said he would like the country's three ATM networks, including Bancnet, to merge before he steps down from office in July next year.

A Megalink official agreed that a merger among the ATM networks would benefit every one.

"It is in the interest of everyone for the ATM networks to merger because of the small market," the official said.

However, the officials said several issues would have to be ironed out, including which would be the surviving entity, which platform to use and operational standards to adopt.

The official said that ExpressNet was bigger than Megalink in terms of network, but it was not the only criteria in determining which operator should be the surviving entity.

Expressnet operates a total of 1,680 machines or more than a third of ATMs in the country. Megalink, on the other hand, has the larger number of cardholders, estimated at 6.7 million as against ExpressNet's 3.5 million.

Megalink also has more member-banks (21) as against Expresnet's four: the Bank of the Philippine Islands group, LandBank, HSBC and Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

But the official said a three-way merger was still a remote possibility as Megalink and Bancnet were still "not comfortable with their present interconnection."

Megalink is the only network with interconnection with the two other ATM operators.

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Yuchengco firm to start capital restructuring

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has allowed House of Investments to reduce its capital stock in order to wipe out last year's capital deficit.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), HI said the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had approved its planned capital restructuring, which would lower its authorized capital stock to P2.875 billion from P3.5 billion. HI's par value would also be reduced to P1.50 from P2 a share.

In view of the approval of the company's capital restructuring, trading of HI shares, which was suspended last Sept. 16, will resume on Thursday, Sept. 23. It was last traded on Sept. 7 at 65 centavos.

HI earlier filed an application with the SEC for the approval of its capital restructuring to wipe out a capital deficit of P167.23 million last year.

The company has interests in car dealership, construction and infrastructure, consumer finance and information technology, through iPeople, Mapua Institute of Technology, Mapua Information Technology Center and People eServe Corp.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only

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The Insurance Standard

(The Cooperative Partner of Zurich Financial Services, Switzerland)

SGS UKAS Q 14436

STATEMENT

This is in response to an article entitled *"Not 'standard' practice"* dated September 1, 2004 in a minor broadsheet by a business writer who has maliciously misinformed the public by misinterpreting the audited financial statements of Standard Insurance Co., Inc.

This is with regards to the qualification as stated by its auditors, SGV & Co., on its recognition of the deferred reinsurance premiums in 2003 and 2002 under its existing reinsurance contract with a subsidiary which is not in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the Philippines (also known as GAAP).

The misinformation and misinterpretation by the said writer declares the company as troubled financially and compares its accounting to those of Enron, WorldComm and Parmalat.

The consolidated financial statements of Standard Insurance as of December 31, 2003 and 2002 as reported by its independent auditors, SGV & Co., are in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the Philippines, except for the recognition of deferred reinsurance premiums under the treaty reinsurance contract for its motor car insurance with a wholly-owned foreign subsidiary.

The qualification, contrary to what is stated in the article, does not have any effect on and does not reduce the company's net income and networth, from a legal standpoint. Otherwise, the auditors would have stated such effect or reduction.

Standard Insurance has been transparent in its disclosure and recognizes such qualification under the GAAP. It has been consistently publishing its audited financials for the benefit of the public.

In the industry, the Consolidated Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2003 of Standard Insurance Co., Inc. will show:

	(In P'000)
THE HIGHEST	
Combined*	
Premiums Earned	1,384.195
Net Underwriting Income	525.508
Income from Operations	182.670
Paid-up Capital	600.000
ONE OF THE HIGHEST	
Net Premium Income, combined*	1,814.877
Net Income	200.374
Net Worth	1,140.989

**combined with eStandard Insurance Corporation (formerly Zurich General Insurance Philippines, Inc.), a wholly-owned subsidiary*

The malicious misinformation and misinterpretation of the article, which will be legally dealt with by Standard Insurance, follows the manner by which certain competition has maligned the financials and reinsurance facilities of Standard Insurance together with the misrepresentation as the cooperative partner of Zurich Financial Services. This is outright unethical and unprofessional.

We welcome fair competition on the basis of merits and we encourage other companies to also publish their financials and reinsurance facilities for the benefit of the insuring public.

Standard Insurance is committed to continuously improve the quality of service to the insuring public by raising the standards of competency and professionalism, and through integrity.

STANDARD INSURANCE CO., INC., ***The Insurance Standard*** has the highest Paid-up Capital in the industry at P600,000,000.00, Backed-up by Reinsurers highly rated by Standard & Poor's, Accredited with most Banks & Financial Institutions; Quality Management Systems-ISO 9000 2001 Certified, Widest branch network located in key cities of the country: The leader in Motorcar Insurance and a Major Player in Non-Motor Insurance, The only insurance company with its own Technical Department which provides Technical Assistance all over the country.

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Website http: www.standard-insurance.com Email inquiry@standard-insurance.com

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 21, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17	17.25	24,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	45	44.5	45	1,174,400
China Banking Corp.	535	535	535	535	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	26,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	70,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	29	27.5	28.5	1,788,900
Philippine National Bank	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.75	4,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	63,000
Security Bank Corp.	21	21	20.75	21	45,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	25	25	25	25	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2420	2420	2420	2420	10
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	109,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	118	118	118	118	100
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1580	1595	1580	1590	4,580
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.5	20.75	20.5	20.75	5,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.66	1,920,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1025	1050	1025	1050	45,690
Ipeople Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	20,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	3,400,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.4	2.42	2.4	2.42	4,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.75	2,902,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1345	1345	1325	1330	148,530
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	200,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	18,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.25	5,800
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.25	23	23.25	46,800
Petron Corp.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.8	10,057,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	7,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	173,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.44	1.44	393,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	82,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	284,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.39	0.37	0.38	600,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	934,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	31,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26	26	26	26	10,600
RFM Corp.	0.73	0.75	0.73	0.75	110,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58	57	58	93,800
San Miguel Corp. B	70	70.5	69.5	70.5	171,500
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.005	52,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.005	45,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.5	4,415,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.4	46,933,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	3,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	120,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	298,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.62	72,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	283,300
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.57	3,240,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	210,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.27	2,240,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	230,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.16	2.24	2.14	2.22	7,297,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.035	0.037	0.035	0.037	15,900,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	100,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	6,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26.5	27	26.5	26.5	162,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	10,000,000
Ionics Inc.	2.16	2.22	2.14	2.16	3,342,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.8	100,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.6	1.64	1.6	1.64	503,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.16	4,466,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.51	0.53	0.5	0.52	47,170,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,700,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	1,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	20,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	60,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	1,350,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	690,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	5,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.76	1.82	1.74	1.82	655,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.69	2,450,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.6	0.63	0.6	0.63	590,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.25	80,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	70,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	41,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21	21	21	21	925,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.3	5,205,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.42	0.45	0.42	0.44	21,220,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.15	2,600,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	16,080,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	1,107,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	410,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	13,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	13,052,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	13,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3	3	3	3	90,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	420,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	143,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	33,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	160,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,110,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	40,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	10,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	2,100,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	39,000

DISCLOSURES

SEMIRARA Mining Corp. will hold a special meeting of stockholders on Oct. 8 at 10:00 a.m. on the third floor of Dacon Building, 2281 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City.

* * *

BALABAC Resources & Holdings Co. Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 9 at the Century Park Hotel, Vito Cruz, Manila at 4 p.m.

* * *

BAGUIO Gold Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 9 at the Century Park Hotel, Vito Cruz, Manila at 2:30 p.m.

* * *

METRO Pacific Corp. (MPC) announced the appointment of Jose Ma. Lim as Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. (CMMTC) president and chief executive officer and the resignation of former CMMTC president and CEO Cezar Quiambao effective Oct. 15. Lim is also president and CEO of MPC, which holds a minority equity interest in CMMTC. ***Compiled by D.J. Yap, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

September 21, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.821153	1.000000	56.2270
Japan	Yen	0.007474	0.009102	0.5118
United Kingdom	Pound	1.4766661	1.786100	100.4270
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105286	0.128217	7.2093
Switzerland	Franc	0.645815	0.786473	44.2210
Canada	Dollar	0.634781	0.773036	43.4655
Singapore	Dollar	0.486148	0.592031	33.2881
Australia	Dollar	0.575117	0.700378	39.3802
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.178182	2.652590	149.1472
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218974	0.266667	14.9939
Brunei	Dollar	0.484713	0.590284	33.1899
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000111	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019892	0.024225	1.3621
UAE	Dirham	0.223577	0.272272	15.3090
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.217800	68.4732
Argentina	Peso	0.274266	0.334001	18.7799
Brazil	Real	0.286715	0.349162	19.6323
Denmark	Kroner	0.134454	0.163738	9.2065
India	Rupee	0.017933	0.021839	1.2279
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216099	0.263165	14.7970
Mexico	New Peso	0.071716	0.087336	4.9106
New Zealand	Dollar	0.542552	0.660720	37.1503
Norway	Kroner	0.119182	0.145140	8.1608
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013944	0.016981	0.9548
South Africa	Rand	0.126733	0.154335	8.6778
Korea	Won	0.000716	0.000872	0.0490
Sweden	Kroner	0.110371	0.134410	7.5575
Syria	Pound	0.022728	0.027678	1.5563
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024237	0.029516	1.6596
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000429	0.000522	0.0294

PNOC unit to tap . . .

From page B1

lion and 30 million barrels of crude oil too small to be given much of their attention and resources.

Then energy undersecretary and now PNOC president Eduardo Mañalac earlier said that the Department of Energy would have to look for other firms that might want to undertake the development of the Malampaya oil reserves.

CAP-tured

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE MORE the entry of a white knight for College Assurance Plan is delayed, the better it gets for the resurgent competition.

According to the latest industry figures, Prudentialife Plans and Philam Plans have cornered half of the pre-need market ever since erstwhile undisputed market leader CAP began being dragged down by its real estate investments in related companies.

Prudentialife, controlled by the family of former Ambassador to the Vatican Francisco Alba, captured 26.62-percent market share in July, while Philam Plans, an AIG subsidiary, came in close second at 25.27 percent.

Sunlife Financial Plans, a subsidiary of Sunlife of Canada, is a far third with 9.2 percent.

For those looking at pre-need sales as a savings indicator for the country, the not-so-good news is that, according to published industry figures, the number of plans sold from January to July this year is still 5.53 percent down from the same period last year.

Still, the good news is that the July sales for the whole industry went up sharply by 23.57 percent, compared to July 2003.

Prudentialife, for instance, doubled its sales to P1 billion in July from P513 million the month before, mainly on account of robust take-up of education and pension plans.

No-marriage clause

THE SUPREME Court has upheld the legality of the no-marriage prohibition on employees of competing private companies.

The high court's Second Division junked the petition filed by a medical representative of Glaxo Wellcome who questioned his transfer to another region after he married another medical representative from a competing company, Astra (now AstraZeneca), from the same competing district.

"The prohibition against personal or marital relationships with employees of competitor companies upon Glaxo's employees is reasonable under the circumstances because relationships of that nature might compromise the interests of the company," wrote *ponente* Justice Dante Tiñga.

The high court noted that such provision had been built in the employment contract signed by any new Glaxo Wellcome hire.

Despite such prohibition, Glaxo Wellcome, instead of asking for his resignation, strived to transfer the detail man, Pedro Tecson, out of the Bicol region—where his new wife was also assigned—to his home province of Agusan, but still he refused.

Unexpected visitor

FORMER Nueva Ecija Rep. Pacifico Fajardo dropped by unannounced when he saw Saturday afternoon a Malacañang convoy clog up the quiet subdivision street in Quezon City that he shares with a neighbor, former PCSO Chair Ma. Livia Singson-de Leon.

It turned out that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself was visiting the recuperating De Leon, who suffered a massive stroke a few months ago that left her unable to return to the sweepstakes office.

Despite Fajardo's not-so-subliminal entreaty, the former congressman, as it turned out, had been unable to charm the President into retaining him as Light Rail Transit administrator.

De Leon's manong, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, wearing a Bayani Fernando-pink of a polo shirt, was also present during the private visit.

Heard through the grapevine

NATIONAL Life Insurance, which holds 0.44 percent of Union Cement, has asked the new Swiss majority owners of the country's largest cement company to also extend to the minority shareholders the tender-offer rule and acquire their leftover UCC holdings at P6/share.

National Life was one of the minority shareholders that had been left holding the proverbial bag after Holcim quietly acquired majority control of UCC from the holding companies of Phinma-Bacnotan Group.

Other minority shareholders left grumbling include the Aboitizes and their listed company, Aboitiz Equity Ventures.

UCC closed yesterday at P2.30.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

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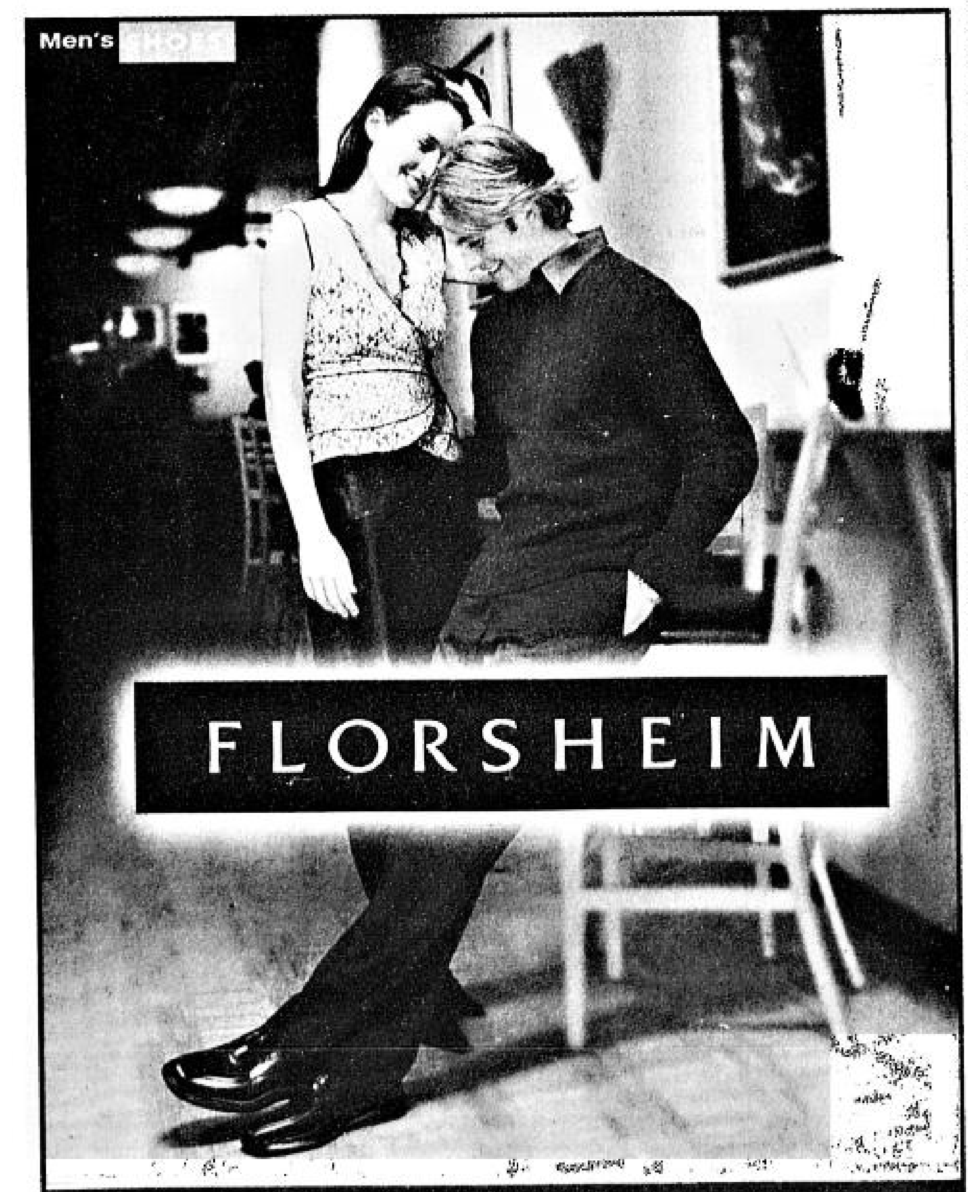

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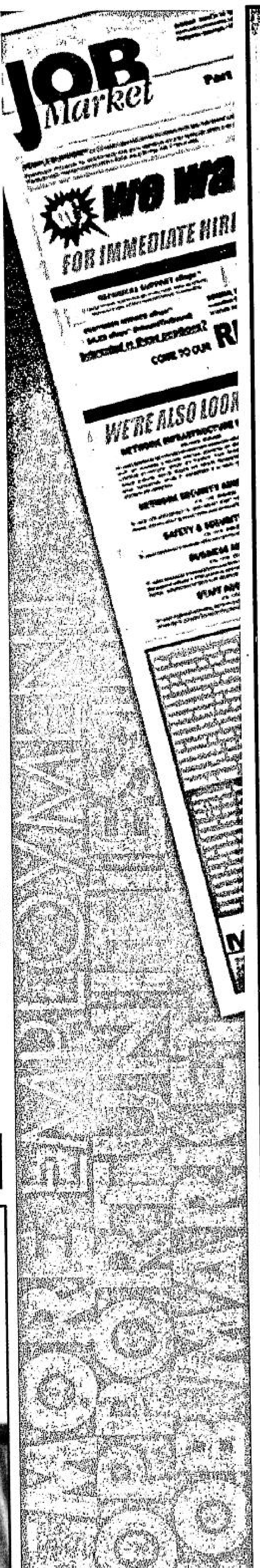

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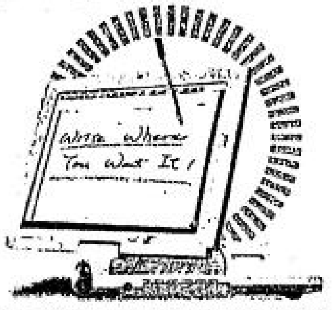
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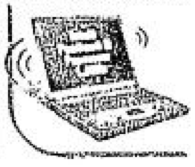

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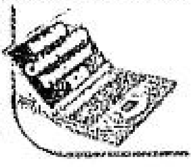

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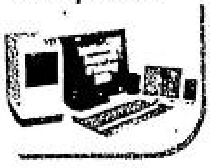

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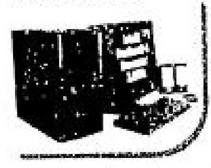

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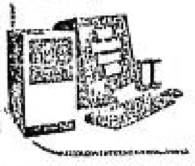

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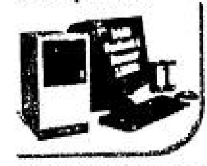

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4376, Series of 2004

PEOPLE at WORK

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes
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How do you resolve conflict at work?

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

DEAR WW: I battle constantly with someone in my department. I'm growing weary of this. What can I do to reduce the tension?

Ready for Truce

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

It's the nightmare of every convenience store clerk: the rifle pointed at your chest. When a clerk in Little Rock, Arkansas faced a rifle, though, he skirted danger by asking a simple question: "Why would anyone want to go to jail over a measly $30?" To his surprise, the would-be robber turned and left.

How many times have you locked horns with someone at work over something equally measly? And how many times has that conflict escalated until you and your opponent could barely be in the same room? Solving these conflicts can be challenging. But the first step is to do the same thing that fast-thinking clerk did: ask questions. In fact, your initial goal should not be to solve the conflict. It should be to start a dialogue. Because only by talking will you eventually reach agreement.

Below are five common types of disagreements and questions to help you break the ice. For more information, see Mel Silberman's book, "People Smart" (Berrett-Koehler, 2000).

Disagreements over facts. You think the client said no for one reason; your opponent's sure it was for another, and you're each bent on bloodying the other before you'll give in and make the next pitch her way. Well, hang up the boxing gloves and ask, "Can we come up with something jointly that's even better than our previous attempts?" Two heads are generally better than one.

Disagreements over process. You're hot to purchase TV ads; your opponent's sold on radio. Before you come to blows, ask, "Hey, don't we both agree on the goal-publicity for our campaign?" By refocusing on the goal, you may be better able to listen to each other's arguments, or may find a third solution that's mutually agreeable.

Disagreements over goals. You think the goal this quarter should be cost-cutting; your opponent favors upping revenue. As hostilities mount you can't imagine how such a numbskull could work for your company. Before thrashing him try asking, "How did you establish that goal?" If you examine both your assumptions, you're apt to find areas of agreement.

Personality conflicts. Personality breakdowns are really tough. Sometimes the best thing is to bring in a neutral third party. Ask, "Are there people we both respect, who don't have the 'baggage' we do, who will be able to help us past this disagreement?"

Disagreements over values. These are toughest of all. Values are nuclear issues for people and we tend to rise—or sink—to unprecedented levels of rigidity when negotiating them. After acknowledging that you're approaching the problem with different sets of beliefs, try asking, "Do you see any areas where we do agree?" Focusing on common ground may help you find a mutually acceptable solution.

These strategies won't solve your conflicts, but they will help you fight fairly so that no one takes a bullet in the line of work.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Which song title best describes your strategy for dealing with conflict at work?

—"Give Peace a Chance," 30.9 percent

—"I Stay Away," 32.5 percent

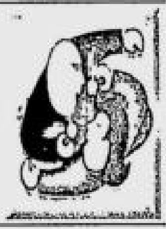
—"Hit Me With Your Best Shot," 36.4 percent

(*Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

Law firm CEO takes time to train young lawyers

By Cecile G. Garcia
Contributor

CAREER TALES



FIFTY-THREE-YEAR-OLD Eusebio V. Tan divides his time between running a law firm and practicing law. Tan is managing partner or CEO of Angara, Abello, Concepcion, Regala and Cruz Law Offices (Accra) and is an expert in corporate law.

Though more than half of his time is taken up by his practice, managing the distinguished law firm is no less demanding, says Tan, who became managing partner in January 2003, after serving as co-managing partner for a year and before that, partner in charge of finance. "The managing partner is elected by the partnership," he explains. "His job is to attend to the day-to-day management of the firm and to make sure that things run smoothly and efficiently." In law firms abroad, according to Tan, the managing partner is usually relieved of lawyer duty to allow him to devote his time to his job as CEO. "Its main challenge for me is to see to it that we meet the firm's targets and objectives," he contends.

Tan joined Accra in 1976, following his admission to the bar the same year. He became a partner after 10 years, working his way up from assistant (now referred to as associate), senior assistant (senior associate) and junior partner. In those days, he recounts, assistants, still wet behind the ears, had to go through the entire spectrum, that is, every aspect of the practice of law. "I was doing corporate and special projects, tax, labor, immigration, litigation and all the rest." This is no longer done, Tan points out. "We start off new associates by letting them focus on their specialty right away."

Interesting course

He never dreamed of becoming a lawyer, reveals Tan. A graduate of AB Economics, De La Salle University, summa cum laude, he was set to go to Harvard for his MBA when he found out that his application was late and he had to wait another year. To keep busy in the meantime, he decided to take up law at the Ateneo. Says Tan, "Law is based on reason and logic and serves to establish order in society. I found it very interesting. So I stayed." He graduated with honors and later on, took a year's leave from Accra in order to pursue his MA at Columbia University in New York City.

Because he deals in corporate law, Tan seldom goes to court. His areas of specialization include investments, business law, mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, franchises and franchising, construction law, leases and leasing, banks and banking, and privatization. Tan handles a lot of international business transactions and was head of the legal team that facilitated obtaining full banking licenses for major foreign banks operating in the country. Among his numerous projects, one he considers quite significant was the privatization of Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS). "I played a very active role in it," he says. Tan acts as corporate secretary or sits in the board of several large corporations.

Competencies

"Being a good lawyer requires patience, hard work, dedication, commitment and persistence," pronounces Tan. Having a logical and analytical mind, people skills and experience are invaluable assets as well. "Every lawyer should be able to look at a problem, spot the main issues and address them by finding solutions." Being a lawyer entails discipline, he adds. "A lawyer should also learn how to be precise and accurate." Tan says he developed some of these skills through almost 30 years of legal practice.

Having had the founding partners of Accra, in particular Teddy Regala, Joe Concepcion and Manny Abello, as his mentors, was Tan's good fortune. "Indeed, I was very lucky to have been trained by them," he concedes. "I try to do the same for our young lawyers. I mentor them by showing them how to improve their work."

Training new lawyers

As managing partner, a democratic one, Tan tries to establish rapport with the firm's young lawyers, making them feel free to seek his advice anytime (Accra, incidentally, has more than a hundred lawyers). Generally, he listens and is always willing to discuss and exchange ideas. When problems arise, as managing partner, he consults either the executive committee or the entire partnership.

Helping people solve their legal problems is the best part of being a lawyer, affirms Tan. He says, "There is satisfaction in being able to provide appropriate counsel and advice, in winning cases for clients, or in non-litigation, in helping them structure a good deal. You feel you've succeeded every time clients are satisfied and happy with the service you render."

The practice of law is time-consuming. This is why Tan feels his biggest contribution to Accra is his time. "Partners work 10 to 12 hours a day, even longer. If we have to, we stay in the office overnight, working." They have a team system at Accra, Tan asides, with at least three lawyers per team.

TAN AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Tan believes his involvement in legal organizations, both here and abroad, is in itself an achievement. As a charter member of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA), he has been invited a number of times to speak on topics related to corporate law during the group's annual conference. He also acts as vice chairperson of IPBA's Cross Border Investment Committee. "The IPBA focuses on the Asia Pacific region. Teddy Regala was president in 1996. I am very much involved in it," says Tan. A member of the Integrated Bar Association of the Phils. (IBP) as well, he served as president of its Makati City Chapter in 1995 and was given the IBP Leadership Award.

Married for 15 years to the former Madeleine Sophie Badoy, Tan and his wife are the parents of two girls and two boys. The lawyer tries to squeeze in a game of golf once a week.

Where does he see himself 10 years from today? Would he follow in the footsteps of several of the 31-year-old firm's legal luminaries? Replies Tan, "I see myself getting involved in new fields, expanding my expertise and continuing to develop my skills as a lawyer."

What is his advice to aspiring young lawyers? "Try to get a lot of exposure and learn as fast as you can by working with more experienced lawyers. Be hard working and dedicated and strive to do your best. Learn proper English, both written and oral. Get yourself recognized for your expertise and skill. Always remember that we can be equal to or even better than our Wall Street counterparts."

Financial planning is everyone's responsibility

By Rex Ma. A. Mendoza
EVP and Chief Marketing Officer, Philamlife

FINANCIAL planning as a buzzword in wealth management has gained a terrific level of popularity in recent times. Professionals in the field of financial services have given advice to many affluent individuals and families and have opened doors to great opportunities for growth, prosperity, and financial independence. While many of these advisors have largely focused on the rich, the principles of financial planning apply to everyone.

Financial planning is defined as the process of meeting life's goals through the proper management of one's finances. This definition has many implications. Since different people have different goals, financial planning has to be a very personalized process. There is also no indication as to what level of financial status one has to be in for planning to be a worthwhile exercise. Anybody who sets his or her mind to achieve financial success needs a plan. Contrary to what is commonly assumed, financial planning can be as simple and as complicated as one desires it to be. Lastly, financial planning is characterized as a continuous process. It must consider changes in the aspirations and economic position of the individual or the family concerned.

So no matter what your current financial situation is, and whatever your life's goals are, you need a plan. This plan will be your blueprint for the achievement of your financial goals. Like any other plan, it sets forth a strategy with which you set your direction to guide you in the future decisions you will make.

Setting goals

The first step is to know what you want. Your goals have to be laid out. Your current lifestyle, your children's education, a comfortable retirement, a completely furnished house, a wonderful vacation, involvement in charitable causes, and a second honeymoon can all be important to you. But how do you rank these? What are your priorities? Setting your objectives right is the most crucial first step in creating your plan.

Second, you have to study your financial position. How much income do you receive and what proportion of this do you spend? How much have you saved? In what instruments are these invested? Do you have loans? It will be worthwhile knowing how you have set up your current situation and check if it matches the prioritized goals you have established. The answer to this question is critical: Are you on track with what you want to achieve? If your answer is yes, or if you are quite close, then you will not require any radical changes. But if the answer is no, or if you are "way off," then you will have to either reposition your investments, check on your inflows and outflows, thereby effecting a change in your financial position to direct your situation towards your goals. Another alternative is to alter your objectives altogether because they may be too unrealistic.

Investment options

When you have completely analyzed "where you are" and "where you want to go," you can now evaluate your investment options. This particular step will define the vehicles that you will choose to reach your desired investment targets. In more technical terms, this is commonly referred to as the creation of a "portfolio."

At this stage, you have to differentiate instruments as to their capability to earn (yield), the probability of losses (risk), the time horizon that you will be committed (liquidity), and the taxes that you may be exposed to. These factors are very important in the selection process because there is no such thing as an ideal investment for everyone at all times. Much will have to depend on your financial situation, risk appetite, and the time frame you have in mind.

Another reason why this evaluation is important is the inverse relationships among these factors. For example, a high yield may naturally mean that you will be taking greater risks. It may also mean that you are committing yourself to a longer time horizon. It is ironic that many people focus on earnings alone without thinking of what they are sacrificing in return for that higher yield. On the other hand, too much focus on safety and liquidity may limit what you will earn. This can result to the underperformance of your "portfolio" thereby making it difficult for you to meet your targets.

You also have to keep in mind that you have many choices. Savings deposits, life insurance, mutual funds, pre-need contracts, money market placements and many other instruments are there to build up any investment basket. In the end, matching and balance is the key to portfolio creation.

Commitment

The commitment to implement an established financial plan will help you avoid mistakes in managing your money. It will strike an equilibrium between what you enjoy today and what you intend to have in the future. Trade offs between current expenses and savings will be clearer. But do not make the mistake of overdoing it. Financial planning does not mean forgoing everything that provides you pleasure. A sound financial plan must be able to afford you satisfaction within the entire process. If you are within that stage where you can afford it, a dress watch can give you internal gratification that is also important to keep you pushing and succeeding. However, this luxury can be a hindrance to a more important priority like security, if you still do not have enough. Again, the key consideration will be your own personal situation. What is good for you might not be good for another person.

After a period of time, you will start experiencing changes, which will require you to revisit your plan. A career move or an added child might be enough for you to refine your goals, and consequently, your financial strategy. For this reason, a review process may be inevitable every three years. For some, this review can even be done annually. Such a study will result in a new plan, and a new cycle will begin.

Financial planning is not just for the rich, it is a responsibility for everybody. It may be one of the tangible reasons why some are well off while many others are in a state of financial trouble. Planning not only helps you make smarter decisions, it also insulates you from market turbulence. Peace of mind is borne out of the stability of your financial position. It is a clear grasp of knowing that you are on track in terms of achieving your dreams. (*For any comments, the author can be reached at* Rex-A.Mendoza@aig.com *or catch him at his seminar on Personal Wealth Management organized by Philamlife on Sept. 24 from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Call* 526-9337 *for details*)

What to do with unproductive coworker

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

FOR SEVERAL months now, I cannot help but be annoyed by our lone sales personnel. Our company has been struggling and yet, he can still very well afford to be lax and unproductive. Surprisingly, in spite of his demeanor and non-performance, he seems to continue to enjoy the trust and confidence of our kind-hearted boss. I have been planning on spilling the beans on him but honestly I am not quite sure if it is the right thing to do.

Please help me decide. I am quite anxious that if I would ignore the situation, our company may just close down due to lack of revenue (which is not far-fetched since our boss has other and more profitable business ventures). If it is the right thing to do, I would also need advice on how to properly approach my boss on this matter.

Thanks a lot.

Uncertain to Act

When you are dedicated to your work and are truly concerned for the welfare of the company, it is indeed very irritating to see others not giving the same amount of effort. This is the cause of many heartaches in companies, not to mention in our government. What can you do?

Area of control

First, look at your area of control. Are you meeting your key result areas? These are the specific deliverables being asked of you. Are you meeting your targets and deadlines? Are you doing truly all that you can to help the company? Is your time well spent? I find that when I am fully concentrated on my tasks at hand and I commit entirely to achieving them, I find myself with no more time to look at other people and how their tasks are going. When I am in this "autistic" mode, as my children would call it, it is as if time expands and I am able to do more in a shorter span of time than I would have thought possible.

It is important to take this first step of focusing on those things that you can control. Because, frankly, your officemate is out of your area of control. He is in what we call your area of influence. You may be able to influence his behavior to a certain extent. However, you cannot make him change what he does or how he does his work.

At this point, when you are sure that you are doing everything that you can in your area of control, try to understand what your officemate is doing in the context of your business. What role does he fulfill? How does he perform in his key result areas? What are his critical activities?

In today's modern workplace, we are offered quite a number of tools that empower us to do our work well. These tools, however, when improperly used also become sources of delay and distraction. For example, e-mail allows us to communicate and document "conversations" fast. We are in touch with people from across the globe with just one click. We can e-mail updated information to clients in no more time than it takes our fingers to type out a letter. Circulating also in our e-mail boxes are inspirational notes, fun quizzes, chain letters, e-group messages. From their workstations, people can look busy and be having a conversation with their friends over Yahoo Messenger.

Doing the right thing

If you truly see that your officemate's productivity is poor, you may try to influence him by not joining him in delaying or procrastinating activities, for example, on frequent smoking breaks or extended lunches. We Filipinos respond well to community-building activities. There are a lot of things we would not do if there were nobody to do it with us. The extended break loses its flavor without the company of friends and great conversation to lunch with.

In this way, you are "witnessing" to what should be the right behavior and creating an environment for your officemate to do the same—without being preachy. People typically reject a suggestion when they feel their actions are being judged by an audience instead of being "invited" to be or do something.

Giving feedback

If, at this point, you still observe your officemate is not performing well, you might want to give him direct feedback. Here's how you do it:

1. Be specific and concrete. Talk about a specific instance. Do not try to compress what you perceive as all of the person's faults in one session. Just bring his attention to the issue at hand.

2. Be descriptive of behavior. As an example, cite what you saw and heard in his behavior and how it made you feel. Instead of telling him directly that he is wrong, focus on how his work affects yours and how he can influence your work positively.

3. Be free of opinion and interpretation. Do not bring other people's opinions or interpretations about events into the conversation. Discuss only those events that include and affect you.

4. Offer practical recommendations for improvement. When you give these recommendations, it would be best if you detach yourself from it. Though your objective in giving feedback is to change the behavior of people, don't feel bad or take it personally when they don't. As I've said at the beginning, your officemate is not within your area of control.

Remember that feedback is most effective when it is given with care and attention, invited by the recipient, expressed directly and fully, uncluttered by evaluative judgments, well-timed, easily acted upon, checked and clarified.

No guarantees

I understand the impulse to go directly to your boss and tell him about your officemate's unproductive behavior. I sense that you are feeling it is quite unfair that this officemate, who, as you observe, is not delivering on his KRAs, still has the faith and trust of your kind boss. My advice is to try the steps I have outlined above first. There are no guarantees that your officemate will change, but at the very least, these steps will open you up to each other as congenial coworkers.

These suggestions are valid only for person-to-person work relationships and creating an environment of openness and continuous learning in an office setting. Of course, if you see your coworker doing something illegal or is prohibited under the company's manual, you should go directly to your boss and talk about what you saw.

I hope these suggestions help you work better with your coworker. Thank you for sending your question. Please tell us how it went. God bless.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

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Lessons on work-life balance from kids

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

MY TODDLER'S body clock is out of whack again. He adjusts to my office hours. When I crawl home at 9 or 10 at night, he jumps at me like a wind-up toy, eager to play, eager to have all my attention, eager to make up for all the time we spent apart.

At midnight last night, he was jumping, giggling, and having a wonderful time climbing over the mountain that was his snoring father. At half-past midnight, he invited me for one more round of putting together his favorite puzzle. At quarter to one in the morning, he pulled out five books from the shelf and insisted on some bedtime stories. And finally, a whole hour after midnight, when he jumped up from bed yet another time, I turned into a witch.

I let out a blood-curdling scream, "Dieeegooo! Stop it! Lie down and sleep! " I was tired. I was angry. I was miserable. At such an ungodly hour, I was willing to throw out all I preach about building our child's self-esteem and talking to kids with respect (no matter what age, no matter what time of day). I just needed to scream!

My son recoiled from me, buried his face in his pillow, covered his eyes with his hands, as if to shield himself from his monster of a mom. For the first time since we began that night's bedtime ritual, he kept still enough to fall asleep. Besieged by guilt, I lay beside him. Could I have handled this better? I asked myself. It was a textbook case of a mother losing control not only over her toddler's routine and of her own emotions. It was a classic amygdala hijack: I just snapped. I had, after all, already spent the day trying to keep my emotions in check at the office, bearing the brunt of other people's temper tantrums so I could keep projects under control. But my little boy didn't know that. He was just too eager to play or to test the limits of his bedtime.

I had forgotten the golden rule of balance: you've got to keep some for yourself. Balance is only possible when you have energy and emotional reserve to give your attention to what the moment requires. Being playful or being firm with your child requires energy. It was energy I didn't have because I had used it all up in the office. The guilt barometer was telling me, I needed to take time off. Just a few minutes, on my own—to take deep breathes, to clear my mind—before I met up with Diego again.

I took that chance as Diego remained still in the nest of pillows he had retreated into. I closed my eyes and paid attention to my breathing. A few minutes later, I felt Diego stir beside me. Maybe, he was paying attention to my breathing too. He probably sensed something had changed. He watched me out of the corner of his eye, and when he was certain I was calmer, he threw his arms out like jack-in-the-box, and shouted "ta-daaa!"

Then he folded himself into my arms, giggling. I held him and giggled, too. Diego sensed that we had both come to an understanding of our limits. He stayed in my arms and asked for his milk. In less than 10 minutes, he was asleep.

Thank God our kids are kids. They're resilient, optimistic, and forgiving. We've got so much to learn from them.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is founding editor of Working Mom magazine, published by ABS-CBN Publishing, Inc. Comments are welcome at an_alcantara@abs.pinoycentral.com.)

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Center for Health Development – V
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
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14 September 2004

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2. The Bicol Medical Center (BMC) now invites sealed Bids from eligible suppliers/manufacturers and exclusive distributors of drugs who are qualified to participate for the Procurement of Various Pharmaceuticals. Copies of the List of Various Pharmaceuticals, with specifications and quantities are available at the BAC Secretariat c/o Supply Section, Bicol Medical Center, Naga City.
3. Delivery of the aforesaid goods shall be within **FIFTEEN (15) working days** upon receipt of the approved Purchase Orders (POs). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Clause 5, Section I, Instructions to Bidders.
4. Eligibility of prospective Bidders to participate will be based on compliance to eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No 9184 (RA 9184), *The Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA)*, and is open to all organizations with at least sixty (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. The process for eligibility check is described in Clause 12 Section II of the Instructions to Bidders. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, only those Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened and the Purchase Order (PO) awarded to the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, provided the Bidder concerned passes the post qualification process.
5. Interested Bidders who wish to inspect the Bidding Documents and obtain further information should contact the BAC Secretariat c/o Supply Section, Bicol Medical Center, Naga City, Telephone No. 473-2334; 473-89-36, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 P.M., Mondays to Fridays.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders, from **September 21 to October 22, 2004**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP2,000.00) and submission of a written application to the following address:

   Dr. RODOLFO C. URSUA
   Chairman
   Bids and Awards Committee
   Bicol Medical Center
   Naga City

7. The BMC shall hold a Pre Bid Conference open to all interested parties, on **October 22, 2004** at 9:00 a.m., at the Auditorium, Bicol Medical Center, Naga City
8. Bids must be delivered to the above address on **November 4, 2004** not later than 9:00 a.m., at the Auditorium. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to and not lower than, a percentage of the approved budget, in any of the following forms/terms.

a)	Cash, certified check, cashier's/manager's check Bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	—	One Percent (1%)
b)	Bank Guarantee	—	One & A Half Percent (1-1/2%)
c)	GSIS Surety Bond	—	Two & A Half Percent (2-1/2%)

9. The BMC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to issuance of Purchase Order (PO) without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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(PDI – September 22 & 28, 2004)

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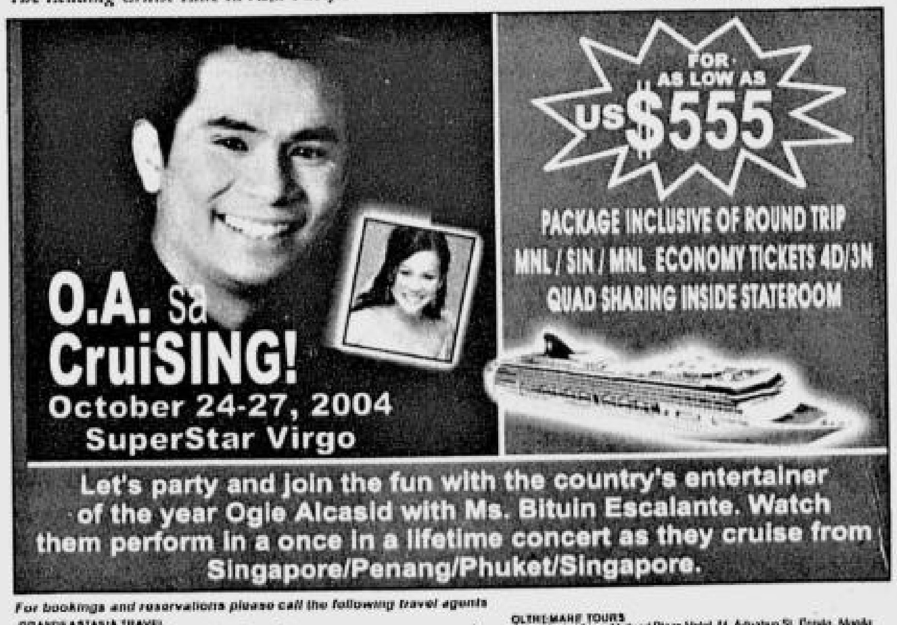
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Philippine Airlines

Security Bank to sell bad loans through special purpose vehicle

By Doris C. Dumlao

MEDIUM-SIZED Security Bank Corp. has joined the growing list of banks keen on selling non-performing assets through a special purpose vehicle.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, SBC corporate secretary Melissa Aquino said the bank had secured the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' approval to establish its SPV subject to the following conditions:

- The equity investment shall not exceed 25 percent of SBC's net worth;
- The total investment in equities made by SBC in all enterprises, including the proposed SPV, shall not exceed 50 percent of the bank's net worth;
- No certificate of eligibility shall be issued by the BSP unless SBC has reduced its equity investment in the SPV to a maximum of 5 percent; and,
- The SPV created shall be dissolved immediately if the non-performing assets are not transferred within the covered period of the law.

The bank did not disclose how much assets it would like to get rid of using the SPV mode.

"The BSP approval is in line with SBC's overall strategy for disposal of its non-performing assets," Aquino said.

Banks are not allowed to own controlling interests in SPVs.

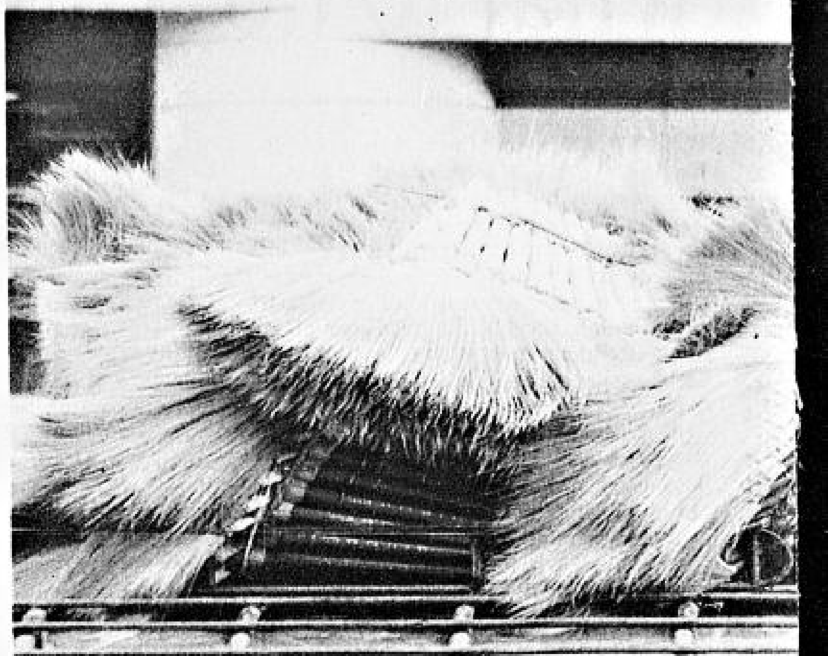
To meet the deadline to avail itself of the fiscal incentives offered by the SPV law, however, banks like SBC decided to pre-register and capitalize the SPVs before the Sept. 18 deadline.

Although the deadline for other banks to establish the SPVs that would qualify for the fiscal incentives offered by the law had expired, there are proposals for Congress to extend the effectivity of the law by another two years.

The SPV Law of 2002 intends to help banks get rid of their non-performing loans and real estate by waiving some of the taxes and reducing fees usually collected from the sale or transfer of assets.

The law waived the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and e-VAT (expanded value added tax) and likewise reduced the registration/transfer fees by 50 percent.

The tax relief and other benefits are available only up to April 8, 2005



A WORKER loads a truck with broomsticks made by Filipino indigenous with tig
competition in the markets, many consumers still opt for the old fashioned, but

Tuna firms invest ₱347M in new facilities

By Abigail L. Ho

TUNA firms General Tuna Corp. (GTC) and Celebes Canning Corp. are investing a combined P347 million in the expansion of their production facilities to take advantage of increasing demand for tuna products abroad.

GTC, the export subsidiary of Century Tuna and 555 Sardines maker Century Canning Corp., will be putting in around P289 million to expand its canned tuna production and launch a full-scale pouched tuna operation.

The planned expansion would provide 564 new jobs to General Santos City residents.

The tuna manufacturing firm's venture into the pouched tuna market was in response to the growing popularity of tuna wrapped in aluminum foil.

Unlike the canned variety, pouched tuna better retains the fresh taste of the fish as well as its firm texture.

Celebes Canning, on the other hand, will be investing an additional P58 million into its operations.

This fresh infusion will almost double the firm's annual production capacity to almost 15,600 metric tons (MT), from 8,386 MT.

Trade Undersecretary and concurrent Board of Investments managing head Elmer Hernandez said tuna processing remained one of the Department of Trade and Industry's priority industries.

Tuna exports topped the list of local marine and aquaculture product export receipts at $144 million in 2002 and $157 million in 2003.

VAT collection from lawyers, doctors eyed

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said it would consider removing the value-added tax exemption of lawyers and doctors to increase tax collection.

According to Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto, the VAT-exempt status of lawyers and doctors could be subject for review when the DOF decides to fine-tune its VAT-collection enhancement proposal.

In a Senate hearing on the economic impact of the Arroyo administration's fiscal measures, the Committee on Economic Affairs proposed that the VAT coverage be expanded to cover lawyers and doctors, instead of increasing the rate from 10 percent to 12 percent.

Committee chair Sen. Manuel Roxas II said simply expanding the coverage of the tax to include those who were previously exempted would result in additional revenue.

Recto, on the other hand, said that the government would be better off doing both measures—increase the VAT rate and expand the coverage of the tax.

"Improving the plan is a suggestion that has to be taken positively. We admit the current proposal was not yet as comprehensive and as detailed as we want it to be," Recto said.

Under the Arroyo administration's proposal to improve VAT collection, the government would set a VAT collection target for 2005.

If the target is not met, then the VAT rate would be increased to 12 percent.

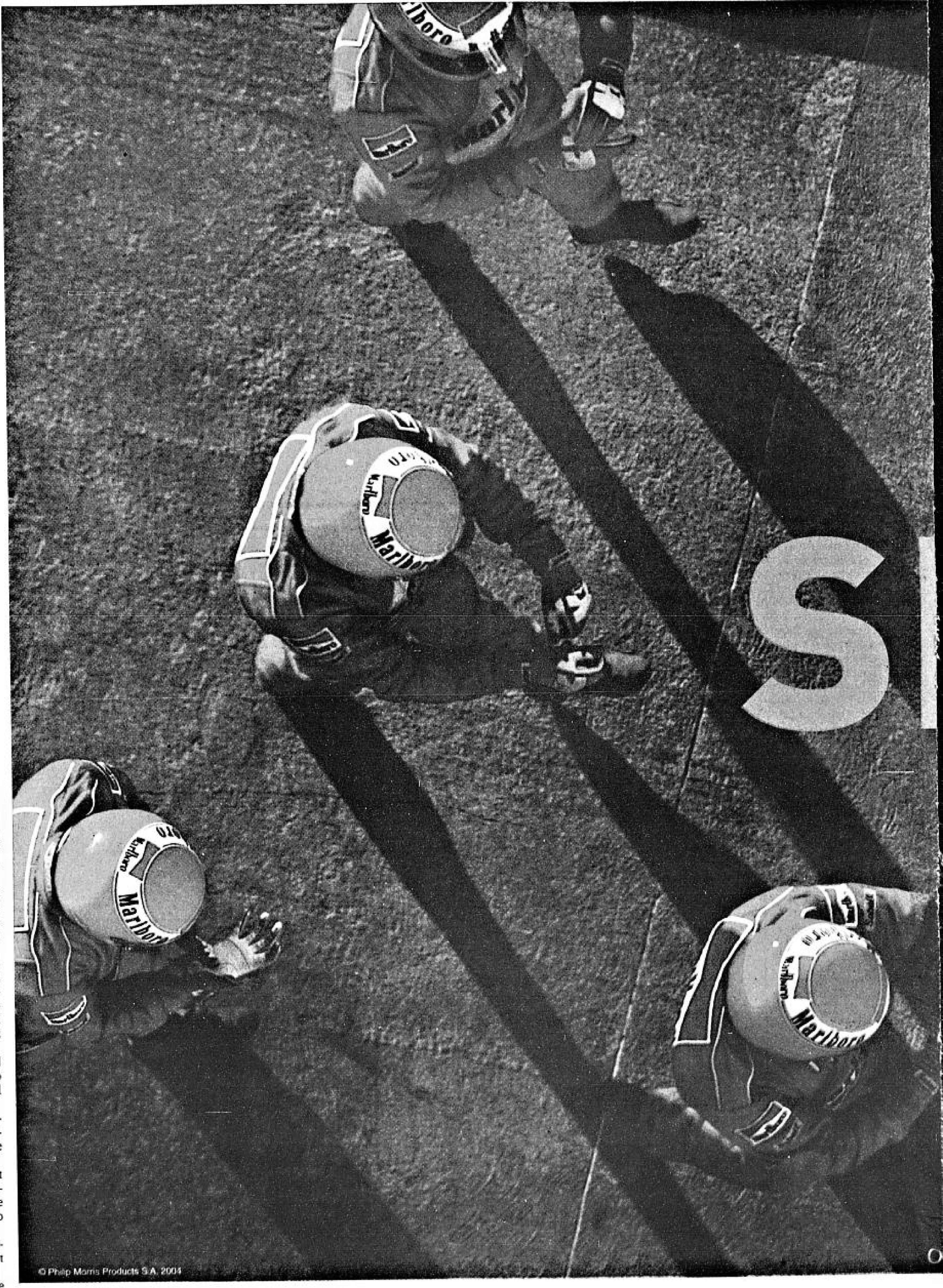
The rate will be further raised to 14 percent if the target was still not met.

The government was hard pressed to improve efficiency of VAT collection, considering the potential revenue lost to leakages or weaknesses in the collection system.

In 2003 alone, the DOF said the government lost P144 billion from VAT leakages.

The government only collected P135 billion in VAT payments last year compared with the potential VAT collection of P279 billion.

With the proposal to enhance VAT collection, the government estimates to collect an additional P20 billion in annual revenue.



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DTI forms unit to manage tuna quota allocation from Europe

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has formed a monitoring unit that would ensure a more systematic administration and management of the country's tuna export quota allocation from the European Union and shipments to EU member-countries.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas Aquino said the Canned Tuna Quota Monitoring Unit, to be maintained by the DTI's Bureau of Export Trade Promotion, came as a result of the European Commission's June 5, 2003 Council Regulation No. 975/2003, which awarded the Philippines a most favored nations (MFN)-based tariff quota of 9,000 metric tons (MT) of tuna effective July 1,2003. The in-quota rate was placed at 12 percent ad valorem.

Before the issuance of this EC regulation, the tariff on Philippine tuna was at 24 percent, which was retained for exports in excess of the quota.

The same tariff quota is also applied to Thai and Indonesian canned tuna exports.

"The lowering of the tariff means P112 million per year in savings. It also provides a better competitive position for our tuna exporters in the EU market, " Aquino said.

Citing unfair competition from former EU colonies in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, the Philippine government, through the DTI, urged the EU to bring down its tariff on Philippine canned tuna.

While the Philippines then was charged a 24-percent tariff, its competitors were charged way lower than that.

The total canned tuna export quota given to the Philippines is evenly distributed among tuna processors Alliance Tuna International Inc., Celebes Canning Corp., General Tuna Corp., Miramar Fish Co., Permex Producer and Exporter, Philbest Canning Corp., Ocean Canning Corp. and Seatrade Canning Corp., all members of the Tuna Canners Association of the Philippines (TCAP).

The quota monitoring unit was formed in response to a request from the TCAP.

The unit will provide assistance to the tuna industry on market access concerns. It will also develop a portal linked to the Atuna website, which will then serve as the local website for the Philippine canned tuna industry. This portal will serve as a venue for the promotion and marketing of canned tuna products.

Canned tuna is one of the country's major marine and aquaculture product exports, accounting for more than 26 percent of total marine exports.

Toyota starts exporting transmission assemblies

AFTER meeting stringent Japanese standards in quality and cost, Toyota Autoparts Philippines (TAP) yesterday started exporting locally made transmission assemblies to Japan.

"We are proud that these Philippine-made transmission assemblies are now a major component of the Toyota Global Supply Network," TAP chair George S.K. Ty said in a speech during ceremonies at the TAP manufacturing facility in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, yesterday.

At present, TAP exports transmission assemblies to Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and South Africa.

Toyota Motor Corp. honorary chair Shoichiro Toyoda said TAP was likewise assigned as a production base for the global market.

"One primary task that we have set up for ourselves is to enhance our contribution to the Philippine economy by expanding exports from the Philippines," he said. "To fulfill this aim, we have now decided to start exporting automotive transmissions to Japan."

The Toyota Group in the Philippines, as a whole, is seen posting $379 million in exports this year from $373 million in 2003.

By 2005, Ty said export revenues should already hit the $400-million mark.

The Toyota Group has so far invested P15.4 billion in the country, with plans to infuse another P7.2 billion for capacity and plant expansion this year and in 2006.

"Toyota is determined to help grow the Philippine auto industry and to contribute to the Philippine economy in the years to come," Toyoda said.

TAP's exports of transmission assemblies to Japan capped Toyota Motor president Fujio Cho's commitment to President Macapagal-Arroyo during their meeting at the Sta. Rosa plant in October 2002.

Ty said this new undertaking would also "support the growth of a strong local supplier base, in line with the government's thrust of promoting SMEs (small and medium enterprises).

Yesterday's ceremony was graced by Ms Arroyo, Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima, Toyoda and Toyota Motor senior managing director Akio Toyoda.

Abigail L. Ho

Imports up 6.9% to $23.4B in 7 months

FLAT global demand for electronics products helped slow the Philippines' import growth to a single-digit clip in July, the government said yesterday.

Merchandise imports rose 5.6 percent from a year earlier to $3.416 billion for the month after an 18-percent jump in June, the National Statistics Office said in a statement.

Imports for the first seven months rose 6.9 percent to $23.35 billion, well below the full-year government target of 11 percent growth, it added.

Electronics imports, which accounted for 43.5 percent of the July total, fell 2.7 percent to $1.53 billion. Such imports comprise the raw materials for electronics exports, which account for nearly 70 percent of the country's total merchandise exports in value terms.

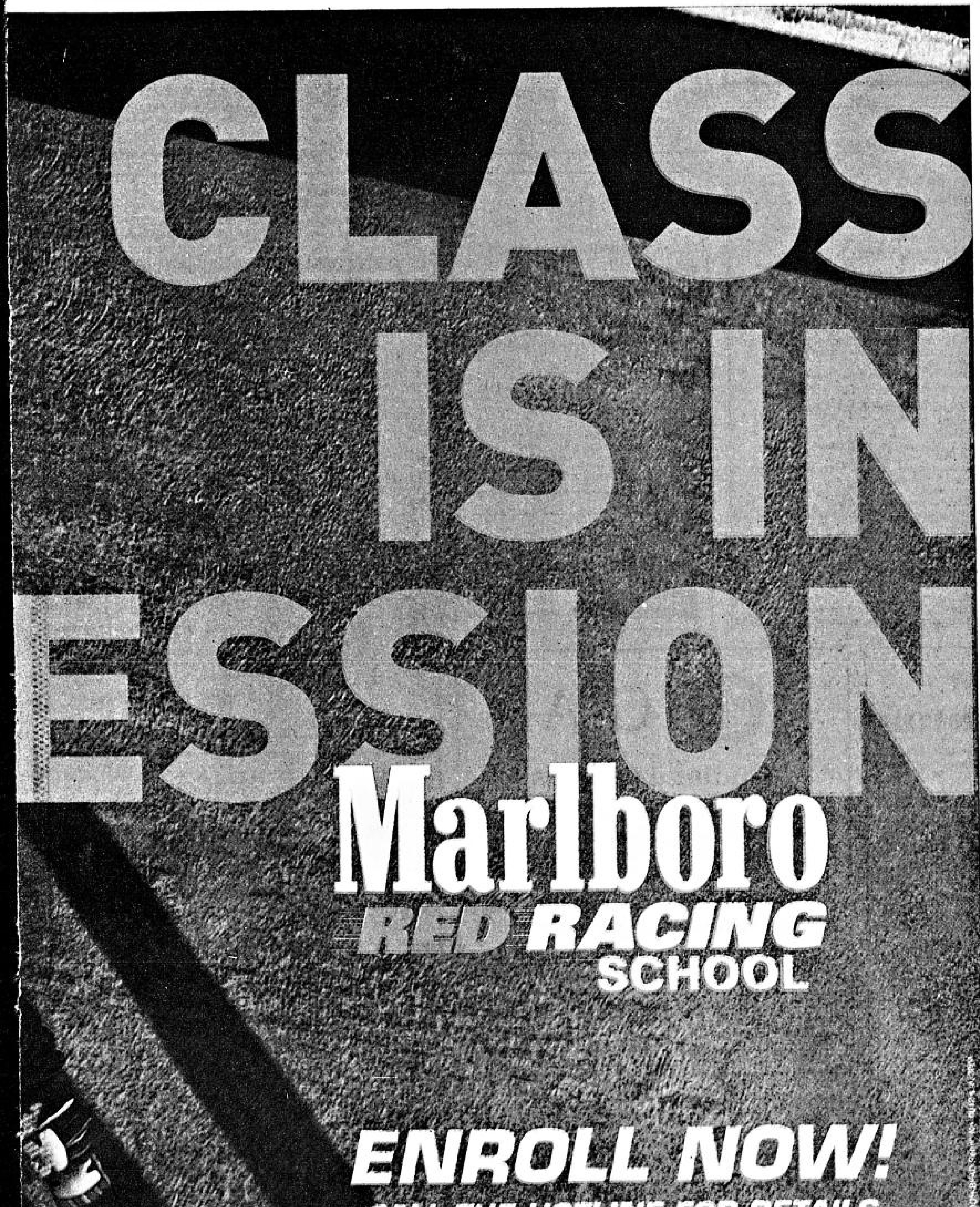
The government earlier reported that electronics exports rose by 0.7 percent to $2.0 billion in July.

The Philippines trade deficit widened to $310 million in July, compared to a $226-million deficit for the same month last year.

For the seven months to July, the deficit stood at $1.515 billion, little changed from the $1.570-billion deficit in the same period a year earlier.

The statistics agency earlier reported exports in July rose 3.2 percent to $3.11 billion, with the seven-month total up 7.7 percent to $21.84 billion.

AFP



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Salary/Benefit Package will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

For further details please contact:
Mr. Clinton De Souza
E-Mail: ades@thoresen.com

Send application with CV and recent photograph to:
Thoresen & Co., (Bangkok) Ltd.
Attn: Mr. Pongsak Kanchanakpan
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GPO Box 1587, Bangkok 10501, Thailand
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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

CAREGIVER PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Qualifications:
- Registered Nurse
- Experience in teaching and administration is an advantage
- Previous involvement in any Red Cross activity is an advantage
- Computer literate
- Good command of the English language (written & oral)

CHAPTER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Qualifications:
- Graduate of any 4-year Course preferably in any allied medical course such as Nursing, Social Work, Physical Therapist, Medtech, etc.
- Previous involvement in any Red Cross activity is an advantage
- Computer literate
- Good command of the English language (oral & written)

NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM (NSTP) COORDINATOR

Qualifications:
- Graduate of any 4-year College Course
- Previous involvement in any Red Cross activity is an advantage
- Computer literate
- Good command of the English language (oral & written)

BOOKKEEPER

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Commerce/Business Administration preferably major in accounting
- 2 or more years actual experience
- Computer literate
- Good Command of the English language (oral & written)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Qualifications:
- Graduate of any 4-year Course preferably in the field of Social Work, Psychology, Sociology, Mass Communication
- Previous involvement in any Red Cross activity is an advantage
- Knowledge and experience in community organizing
- Computer literate
- Good command of English language (written & oral)
- Must be willing to be involved in community immersion

CHAPTER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE ON RAISING

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Bachelors Degree in Commerce or Business Administration, major in Marketing
- Previous involvement in any Red Cross activity is an advantage
- Experience in fund raising activities
- Computer literate
- Good command of the English language
- Can conceptualize, plan and implement fundraising programs/activities

Applicants are requested to submit their Comprehensive resumé and other pertinent documents on or before September 30, 2004 at:

QUEZON CITY RED CROSS
Quezon City Hall Compound
Civic Center, Diliman
Quezon City 1100

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and bid for the selection of proponents in the planning, development and management under a lease agreement of the:

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (UP) DILIMAN TOWN CENTER

The UP Diliman Land Use Plan designates a commercial zone of approximately 14,186.80 square meters, bounded by Laurel, Apacible, Valenzuela and Roces Streets, UP Diliman Campus, Quezon City. The UP Diliman Town Center Project is intended to replace, upgrade and expand the existing shopping center.

Prequalification forms and Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained from the UP Diliman Development and Planning Committee (DPC) Secretariat, Director's Office, Institute for Small-Scale Industries (4/F Virata Hall/ISSI Bldg.) University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 from September 20 to 24, 2004. Deadline of submission of duly accomplished prequalification documents will be on October 8, 2004. After the evaluation of the documents submitted the prequalified proponents shall be duly notified of the schedule of subsequent activities. For inquiries, please contact Tel. No. 920-5301 to 99 loc. 4717 Tel./Fax No. 920-6923, or Tel. No. 927-9238; (c/o Ms. Ludy Cubillas); e-mail: lourdes.cubillas@up.edu.ph

(Sgd.) **EMERLINDA R. ROMAN**
Chancellor

(PDI - Sept. 16 & 22, 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Jaro, Iloilo City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **National Food Authority (NFA)**, Region 6 invites all sack manufacturers to participate in the bidding for the supply of 300,000 pieces more or less Palay Empty Sacks in accordance with NFA specifications and design with approved ABC of P2,637,000.00.

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Time
1. Issuance of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Forms	Sept. 23-30, 2004	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
2. Pre-bidding Conference	October 5, 2004	1:30 PM
3. Submission and Opening of Eligibility and Bid Documents 2004	October 5, 2004	3:00 PM

Interested parties may secure the eligibility requirements and bid forms from the Secretariat c/o Ms. Marilou M. Paguntalan of NFA Iloilo Regional Office, 2nd Floor from September 23-30, 2004 after payment of a non-refundable/non-transferable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

For any inquiry, please contact RBAC Chairperson or Ms. Marilou M. Paguntalan at telephone numbers (033) 329-2165 and 320-6246.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality, technicality or defect therein and may accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA**
ARD/RBAC Chairperson

(PDI - Sept 20, 21 & 22, 2004)

IBB

Marketing Assistant, Philippines

The International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB), a part of the United States Government, is looking for a Marketing Assistant in Manila to perform a wide variety of routine marketing related activities. The IBB includes the Voice of America radio and television service, one of the largest newsgathering organizations in the world and a leader in providing news and entertainment programs around the globe.

Applicant MUST have an in-depth knowledge of the media environment in the Philippines; 3 years experience working for a broadcast station; excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills; be able to travel occasionally; be fluent in spoken and written English; be able to work independently with little supervision. Applicant must be mature, resourceful, have initiative, etc.

Responsibilities: Assist Regional Marketing Director (RMO) in Bangkok; Maintain close contacts with regional/U.S. IBB offices; Update IBB affiliate database; Monitor and research media developments in the Philippines; monitor VOA broadcast on various stations in the Philippines; arrange for equipment installation; write weekly reports; negotiate rebroadcast agreements & perform other duties as assigned.

Fax your detailed resumé and letter to Joyce Ngoh at 66-2-205-5707, send by email to jmngoh@ibb-bkk.org or mail it to *IBB, The Millennia Bldg., Rm 1501, 62 Langsuan Rd., Bangkok 10330, Thailand.* Applications must be received by close of business on September 24, 2004.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

TUTORS

- Education Major (Preferably – English)
- Board Qualified
- Fluent in English (Orally/Grammatically)

SECRETARY I / II

- Preferable Mass Com/Commerce Graduate
- Excellent Oral and Written English Communication Skills
- Computer Literate

COOKS AND JANITORS

- Must be High School Graduate

Bring : Resumé, Transcript of Records, 2 ID Photos, Health Certificate, NBI and Police Clearance.

Please apply at:

MTM CEBU LANGUAGES INSTITUTE, INC.
23 PANAY AVENUE, QUEZON CITY
Contact Person: Mr. Nathan Youn
Contact No.: 926-8835 (Between 8-10 a.m./7-9 p.m.)
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NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
PANAY DIESEL, POWER PLANT
Dingle, Iloilo City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) NPC, PDPP, Dingle, Iloilo invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirement/s:

Date/Time & Place of Bidding	October 21, 2004, 9:00 AM NPC, PDPP, Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo
PR. No./Inquiry No	PB104-2004-232
Specification	PR # PB104-2004-232 1. INDICATOR, PRESSURE Model w-311; Range 0 – 6 kg/m2; Ampere: 4 – 20 MA 2. INDICATOR, PRESSURE Model: w – 311; Range 0 – 10 kg/m2; Ampere: 4 – 20 MA
Approved Budget	PB 104-2004-232 – P873,600.00
Pre Bid Conference	September 27, 2004, 2:00 PM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo
Submission of First & Second Envelope; Opening/Evaluation of first Envelope (Technical Documents)	October 11, 2004, 10:00 AM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo
Opening of Second Envelope (Financial Documents)	October 21, 2004, 9:00 AM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo.

A Two Envelope Mode of Procurement shall be observed.

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Mr. Rolando T. Bulla – BAC Chairman/Manager Admin/Finance PDPP, Dingle, Iloilo with telefax number 351-0450 upon presentation of this publication and payment of non-refundable fee of Php 1,000.00 starting September 15, 2004 to October 5, 2004 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 NN and from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM.

Bid proposals and other tender documents shall be opened in the presence of the prospective bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with IRR of R.A. 9184 Pass/Fail evaluation shall be observed.

A bidders Bond equivalent to 1% is required in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit, 1.5% Bank Guarantee, 2.5% Surety GSIS surety bond

A Performance Bond equivalent to 30% of the total contract amount, penal and callable on demand issued by the GSIS

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and B) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action

(Sgd.) **NELSON J. HOMENA**
Plant Manager, PDPP

(PDI – Sept. 15 & 22, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Bids and Awards Committee for
Information Technology (BAC-IT)
Quezon City

September 22, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Name of Project	:	CUSTOMIZATION/CONFIGURATION, INTEGRATION, MIGRATION AND INSTALLATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES OF CALL MONITORING SOFTWARE AND LEASE OF SERVER FOR THE BIR CONTACT CENTER AND BIR HELP DESK
Location of the Project	:	Bureau of Internal Revenue
Contract Duration	:	December 1, 2004 up to February 28, 2005
Approved Budget	:	P6,750,000.00
Source of Funding	:	e-Government Fund

All interested parties may obtain the bidding documents from the BAC-IT Secretariat, c/o Room 605, 6/F, BIR-National Office Bldg., BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City starting **September 22, 2004**, upon payment of non-refundable fee of (P1,400.00).

Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **October 7, 2004, Thursday at 2:00 p.m.**, at the **Executive Conference Room**, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City.

Deadline for the submission and opening of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on **October 21, 2004, Thursday at 1:30 p.m.**, to be held at the **Executive Conference Room**, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City to be followed by the opening of the bids.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC-IT Secretariat, thru the Chief, SSTMD-IPOS at Room 302, 3/F, Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Bldg., BIR Compound, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 981-7085, 927-4101, 981-7079, 981-7080 and 928-3235 (telefax) or e-mail us at lilibeth.maranan@bir.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) **Atty. LEONOR S. VILLALON-ROGERS**
Assistant Commissioner-HRDS
Chairman, BAC-IT

(PDI - September 22 & 29, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Mindanao Polytechnic State College
C.M. Recto Avenue, Lapasan, 9000 Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (08822) 72-60-65 / (088) 856-1738 / 856-1739 Telefax (088) 856-4696

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Mindanao Polytechnic State College through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting all interested suppliers to apply for Eligibility and to Bid for:

Name of Project : Lease-To-Own Contract for the following:

1 Unit	Server
60 Units	Personal Computer
3 Units	Switch
1 Lot	Structured Cabling

Approved Budget : PhP 3,380,000.00
Funding Source : Students Library Computerization Collection

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES :

1. Pre-Bid Conference – September 28, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. – Conference Room
2. Deadline for submission of Documents for Eligibility Check – October 13, 2004
3. Opening of Bids – October 13, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. – Conference Room

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of R.A. 9184 and its IRR-A otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Bidding documents can be secured from the Office of the BAC Secretariat with Tel. No. 856-1739 "136", upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND (PhP 1,000.00), starting September 29, 2004 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

MPSC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any formality or defects and to make an award to the propsal most advantageous to the MPSC. The MPSC neither assumes no obligation for whatsoever losses that the bidders may incur in the preparation of their bids nor guarantees that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **CESAR C. ESQUINAS**
Chairman

(PDI – September 15 & 22, 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PD Ref No.: PB040521-EL0071 / PR No.: WVP-04-6786

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE FOR CORPORATE TRANSCO,** wishes to invite interested parties who are qualified for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

Item	Item Description	PR No.	Approved Budget
1-13	Supply and Delivery of Power, Control, Instrumentation and Grounding Cables	WVP-04-6786	P 8,989,624.00

1. The Bidding Documents will be available for issuance starting **September 13, 2004 to October 6, 2004** at The BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
2. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before **10:00 A.M. of October 7, 2004** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
3. Pre-bid conference will be held on **September 24, 2004 at 10:00 A.M.**, at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman,. Quezon City.
4. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
5. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
6. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 15 & 22, 2004)

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BIENVENIDO CUBACUB LEUTERIO

Director, Bureau of Design, Department of Public Works and Highways, (1991-2002)
Head, Hydraulics Department, Mapua Institute of Technology (1964-1991)

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 16, 2004 at the age of 67.

His loving wife **Luz**; children **Leila** and **Rene Flores**, **Leny** and **Ariel Lacson**, **Leilani** and **Gerry Gonzales**, **Luzette** and **Sonny Liwag**, **Bien** and **May Leuterio**, **Burt** and **Imelda Leuterio**; grandchildren **Suzette**, **Rene Jr.**, **Laraine**, **Liza**, **Joshua**, **Danielle**, **Bryan**, **Nicole**, **Camille**, **Byron**, and **Gerard**; brothers **Jesus** and **Clemente**; sisters **Miring**, **Ofelia**, **Zeny**, **Fe** and **Nellie** and their spouses; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Chapel C, Christ the King Parish Church, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 26, 2004 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Christ the King Parish Church.

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary
of Our Beloved

Pilar Cueto-Leachon

(January 25, 1935 – September 22, 2003)

Holy Masses will be offered today at the following churches:

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Proj. 6, Quezon City	6:00 a.m.
St. Anthony Shrine, 454 Manrique St., Sampaloc, Manila	6:00 a.m.
Shrine of Mother of Perpetual Help, Baclaran, Parañaque City	6:00 a.m.
St. Jude Parish, J.P. Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila	6:00 a.m.
Black Nazarene Parish, Quiapo, Manila	6:00 a.m.
St. Benedict Chaplaincy, Lalud, Calapan City Or. Mindoro	6:00 a.m.
Sto. Niño Parish Church, Calapan City Or. Mindoro	6:00 a.m.
Benedictine Nuns Monastery Chapel, San Rafael, Calapan City Or. Mdo	6:00 a.m.

Her loving husband **Judge Emilio L. Leachon, Jr.**; children **Jojo** and **Joey**, **Dr. Tony** and **Dra. Marge**, **Marita** and **Francis**, **Lito** and **Alfa**, **Beck** and **Johnny**, **Archie** and **Adel**, **Atty. Doy** and **Rona**; grandchildren **Rj**, **JM**, and **Chichi**, **Mikan**, **Vana** and **Jolo**, **Dianne**, **Gef** and **Alyanna**, **April**, **Biboy** and **Marie**, **Xerox** and pious readers to please remember her in their prayers on her first death anniversary.

"The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."

Psalm 23

ALISA NORMITA DELGADO MACAWARIS

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 15, 2004 at the age of 26.

A beloved and youngest daughter to the late **Dr. Ali G. Macawaris & Dr. Natividad Delgado - Macawaris**, an endearing sister to **Alina & Rochie**, **Ali-Luis & Annlebee**, **Natalie Nuhayla**, **Moh-al** and **Peachy** and a loving aunt to **Renzo**, **Rianne**, **Nathan**, **Aloysius**, **Li-an**, **Andrew**, **Martyn**, **Aphy** and **Nuelle**.

Her body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc. 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 25, 2004 at the Heritage Park, Taguig at 10:00 a.m. after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the UP Chapel Diliman, Quezon City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6

Our dearly beloved and precious ...

LOURDES "ELSIE" CADIZ DAKANAY

(July 16, 1932 – September 20, 2004)

wife of **Emigdio Jr.**; mother of **May & Boy Rosales**, **Phoebe**, **David & Juliet**, and **Toni-Doll**; grandmother of **Andrew**, **Kevin**, **Mark** and **Pia Rosales**, **Hannah** and **Joshua** has gone to be with our Lord forever last September 20, 2004.

Vigil services at UCCP-Cosmopolitan Church, Taft Avenue, Manila (across PGH) will be held on September 22 & 23 at 8:00 P.M.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque following the final necrological service on Friday, September 24, 9:00 A.M. at UCCP-Cosmopolitan Church.

OUR MOST BELOVED

HON. HECTOR FABIE DYSANGCO

of Cabanatuan City
Judge, Municipal Trial Court
of Santa Rosa, Nueva Ecija

(April 26, 1940 – September 19, 2004)
Peacefully passed on eternal to join His Creator

He is mourned by his loving wife **PACITA** Barangan **DYSANGCO**; his children **ARIEL & JOCELYN**, **DIANA ARMIDA & FRANCIS ROGIE**, **ROY ARNALDO**, **ARIES**; grandchildren **Aurabel Joi**, **Althea Jiel**, **Adeline Jem**, **Dana Rogiene**, **Frances Dionne & Franz Daniel**; brothers & sisters; brothers & sisters-in-law request the pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence # 759 William St., Aduas, Cabanatuan City.

Cremation shall be at 10:00 o'clock AM,
Sunday, September 26, 2004
at Eternal Crematorium, Dagupan City.

Virginia Dimalanta Ramos, M.D.

of Eastampton, New Jersey, and formerly
of Jose Abad Santos Tondo, Manila, Philippines

Graduated at University of Santo Tomas,
Faculty of Medicine, 1955
She was born on May 20, 1930 and joined her Creator
on September 19, 2004 at Community Medical Center,
Toms River, NJ, at the age of 74
Trained in Obstetrics and Gynecology,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.
Practiced in the Philippines until her retirement in 1991.

Her bereaved husband, **Severino M. Ramos, M.D.**; children: **Alexander** and **Aleta Ramos**, **Dr. David Glenn** and **Josephine Ramos**, **Susan** and **Eugene Cadiz**, **Eileen** and **Adel Ramirez**, **Dr. Mary Rose** and **Dr. Mario Gallardo**, and **Lourdes** and **Roszel Pilapil**; brothers and sisters; her 14 grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at Anderson Campbell Funeral, Toms River, New Jersey from September 22 to 23.

Interment will be on September 24 at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Toms River, New Jersey after the 10 a.m. Holy Mass.

In lieu of donations in her memory may be made to Bantay Bata, 163 ABS-CBN Foundation.

On the 40th day
after his death, the family
of the late

JOSE Z. APÓSTOL

(November 17, 1922 – August 14, 2004)

wish to thank all who condoled
with them, sent flowers, prayers
and donations to Tuloy Foundation
for street children.

LUDOVICO CAMPOSO MARTINO

of Cebu and Manila

Peacefully joined his Creator
on September 19, 2004 at the age of 60.

His bereaved wife **Gigi**; children **Giovanni**, **Marco** and **Nico**; brothers **Tony** and **Felix**; other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Dama De Noche Chapel, La Paz Funeral Parlor in Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Cremation will follow
the 1:00 p.m. (mass) on Thursday,
September 23, 2004.

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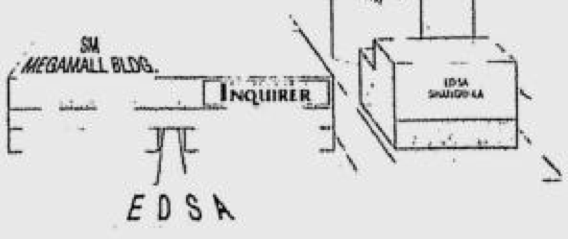

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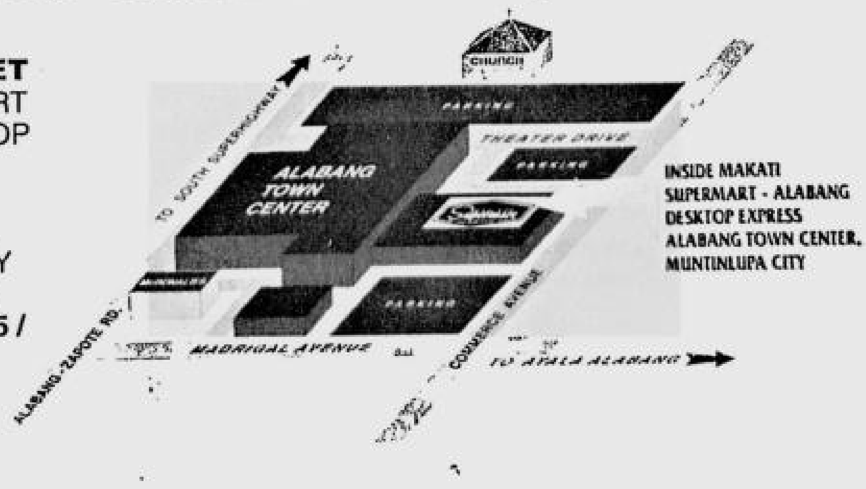

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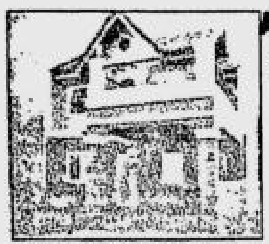

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12A1	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS FOR THE RECONDITIONING OF TWO (2) UNITS TURBO CHARGER ASSY.	5BDP-04-187 (RA)	P 5,230,000.00
12A2	CME-DIESEL - 1% BLEND OF COCONUT METHYL ESTER & 99% DIESEL FUEL (B1COCOBIODIESEL)/CME-COCONUT METHYL ESTER	0TTD-04-251 (EA)	P 3,136,112.00
DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 25, 2004; 9:00 AM			
12B1	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS & SPARE PARTS FOR THE REHAB, REPAIR, COMMISSIONING & TESTING OF SAFT NIFE EQUIPMENT (PB2)	1MCF-04-307 (JP)	P 1,010,000.00
12B2	BULK LOADING SPOUT, BRAND: OCL (PB2)	1MCF-04-360 (LS)	P 1,184,294.00
12B3	TUBE, AL-BRASS ANNEALED (PB3)	1MCF-04-300 (LS)	P 2,500,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 25, 2004; 2:00 PM			
12C1	LAMPS, HPI-T LAMP, MOGUL BASE, PHILIPS OR EQUIV. (250/400/1000 WATTS)	1MCF-04-501 (LS)	P 1,080,000.00
12C2	POWER CABLE, PANZERFLEX L MV OR EQUIV.	1MCF-04-502 (LS)	P 2,460,000.00
12C3	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS. PARTS & EQUIPT. FOR GEN. RECONDITIONING OF CATERPILLAR 928G PAYLOADER W/ SERIAL NO. 7SR00161	1MCF-04-503 (LS)	P 3,675,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 26, 2004; 9:00 AM			
12D1	JOINT, FLEXIBLE, RUBBER, HEAVY DUTY	5PGP1-04-149 (LS)	P 1,320,352.00
12D2	SYSTEM, BATTERY MONITORING	5PGP2-04-044 (LS)	P 5,000,000.00
12D3	BREAKER, GAS CIRCUIT	5PGP2-04-034 (LS)	P 4,800,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 26, 2004; 2:00 PM			
12E1	GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM, MODEL: GEO XM 512MB COMPLETE W/ TERRASYNC PROFESSIONAL & GPS PATHFINDER OFFICE SOFTWARE KIT, MADE IN USA OR EQUIV.	WMD-04-098 (ZC)	P 1,200,000.00
12E2	AIR COMPRESSOR, FOR BROWN BOVERY CO. CIRCUIT BREAKER (PB2)	1MAG-04-0117 (LS)	P 2,500,000.00
12E3	J.O.-TO SUPPLY LABOR & MATLS FOR THE RETROFITTING OF STATIC EXCITATION OF AUXILIARY UNIT 1&2 GENERATOR	1ANG-04-0362 (JP)	P 20,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 27, 2004; 9:00 AM			
12F1	J.O.-TO SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS & EQUIPMENTS INCLUDING SUPERVISION IN THE REHAB OF 13.8KV TRANSMISSION & COMMUNICATION LINES (PB2 RESCHED)	3TPM-03-004 (RP)	P 2,500,000.00
12F2	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATERIALS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF METEOROLOGICAL STATION/WEATHER INSTRUMENT AT PLANTS A&C	3TGP-04-037 (RP)	P 3,000,000.00
12F3	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF CONTINUOUS EMISSION MONITORING SYSTEM AT PLANT A TGPP	3TGP-04-036 (RP)	P 6,500,000.00
12F4	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF CONTINUOUS EMISSION MONITORING SYSTEM AT BACMAN 1 UNIT NO. 2	3BAC-04-650 (RP)	P 6,500,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 27, 2004; 2:00 PM			
12G1	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS IN THE INSTALLATION OF COOLING TOWER LEVEL SENSOR AND INDICATOR	3TGP-04-021 (RP)	P 2,500,000.00
12G2	SODIUM HYDROXIDE (CAUSTIC SODA)	3MGP-04-273 (ZC)	P 9,720,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the Bidding Room for the following bidding schedules on:

12A1-12A2	October 8, 2004; 2:00/3:00 PM	12E1-12E3	October 12, 2004; 2:00 PM
12B1-12B3	October 11, 2004, 9:00 AM	12F1-12F4	October 13, 2004; 9:00 AM
12C1-12C3	October 11, 2004; 2:00 PM	12G1-12G2	October 13, 2004; 2:00 PM
12D1-12D3	October 12, 2004; 9:00 AM		

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP500.00 per schedule starting on **September 28, 2004. Issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. up to the specified time as stated in the bid schedules above. No bid documents will be issued three (3) calendar days before the date of bidding.**

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by other NPC Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid. Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Republic Act 9184".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit-One Percent (1%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand with 120 days validity period from the date of opening of bids issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office on the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids; and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI - Sept. 22 & 29, 2004)

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice Is Hereby Given That the Estate of the late Eulogio A. Maranan who died at Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada on April 13, 2003 Had been Settled by His Heirs in a died of ExtraJudicial Partition with Sale,Subscribed and Acknowledged Before Atty. Magno V. Toribio, Notary Public For And In the City Of Trece Martinez per Doc.# 2; Page# 07; Book #XLI, Series of 2004.PDI-Sept.22,29 Oct. 6, 2004

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice Is Hereby Given That the Estate of the Late Rosario and Jesse Alibanggo Was Extrajudicially Settled Among thier Heirs as Per Doc 116 Page 24 Book VI Series 2004 Notary Public Atty. Wendell E. Coronel Of Pque on 20, Sept 2004. (PDI- Sept. 22,29,2004) (October. 6, 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost ACR Issued To Mr Troy Don Franklin By Bureau Of Immigration On October 17, 2004 Makati City, PDI- Sept. 20 -24, 2004

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DPS Grand Alumni Homecoming

CALLING all graduates of the Diliman Preparatory School from Batch '69 to 2004, our dear Alma Mater is commemorating its 35th Foundation Anniversary and we're having a special get together on Nov 27, Saturday, 5 p.m. at the DPS Gym. Aside from reminiscing with batchmates, schoolmates, teachers and friends, the event will also serve as the launching of the DPS Alumni Association. Help us build the DPS Alumni Directory. If you are in touch with you batchmates and other DPS graduates or know where to contact them please share this information with us via e-mail dps_alumni@yahoo.com For more information, please contact Manchie Pascual 951-9403, Sheryl Tupas 951-0382 or Aisa Fernandez 952-0571

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND to BID

COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

The **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM** is inviting bidders to apply for eligibility & to bid for the supply and delivery of 51 units PC Workstation and 18 units Dot Matrix Printer for the SSS' Member Assistance Center in the Main Office.

Approved Budget for the Contract:

• Item#1 :	51 units PC Workstation	- P	1,938,000.00
• Item#2 :	18 units Dot Matrix Printer	- P	162,000.00
TOTAL		- P	2,100,000.00

Source of Fund:
- Item#1 : CY2004 CAPEX - Computer Operations Hardware Requirement
- Item#2 : CY2004 Furniture & Equipment Expense - Diliman Branch

Contract Duration : 30 calendar days

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Particulars	Date	Venue
Issuance of eligibility requirements	Sept. 21 to Oct. 5, 2004	BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg.
Deadline of submission of eligibility requirements	Oct. 8, 2004	BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg.
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00	Oct. 19, 2004	BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg.
Pre-bid Conference	Oct. 22, 2004 2:00 p.m.	Bidding Room, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg.
Submission & Opening of Bids shall be announced and confirmed through a Bid Bulletin.		

For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491.

This bidding shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - Sept. 22, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communication
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY,
METRO MANILA

IN RE: PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO
IMPOSE CARGO FUEL SURCHARGE
OF US$0.25 PER KILO OF ACTUAL
WEIGHT BASED ON FUEL PRICE
INDEX

CAB CASE NO. EP-25151

EMIRATES AIR,
Petitioner.

x--------------------------------------x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of RA776, as amended, Notice is hereby given that EMIRATES AIR has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board a petition for approval of authority to impose cargo fuel surcharge of US$0.25 per kilo of actual weight based on Fuel Price Index. The above-entitled case is scheduled for hearing on October 6, 2004 at 10:30 AM at the CAB Conference Room Old MIA Road, Pasay City before the undersigned at which the applicant shall present relevant evidence.

The applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing be published at least once two (2) weeks before the scheduled hearing in a newspaper of general circulation.

Let a copy of the petition and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

15 September 2004
Pasay City, Philippines

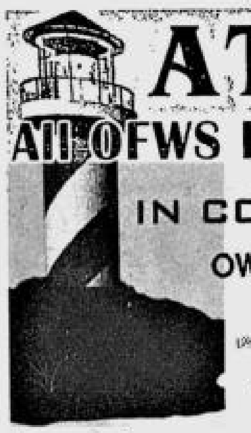
(Sgd.) ATTY. FREDERICK G. VILLARIN
Hearing Officer

Copy furnished:

ATTY. RONALD A. LEDESMA
Counsel for the Petitioner
Puno and Puno Law Offices
12th Floor, East Tower
Philippine Stock Exchange Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center
Pasig City

MS. CYNTHIA REYES TSUI
President
Aircargo Forwarders of the Philippines, Inc. (AFPI)
Room 225, Building B, Sky Freight Building
Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Barangay Sto. Niño
Parañaque City

(PDI--Sept. 22, 2004)



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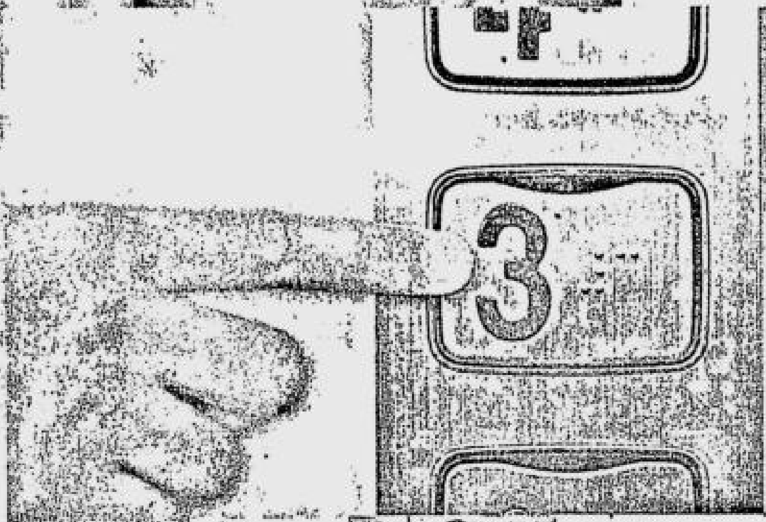

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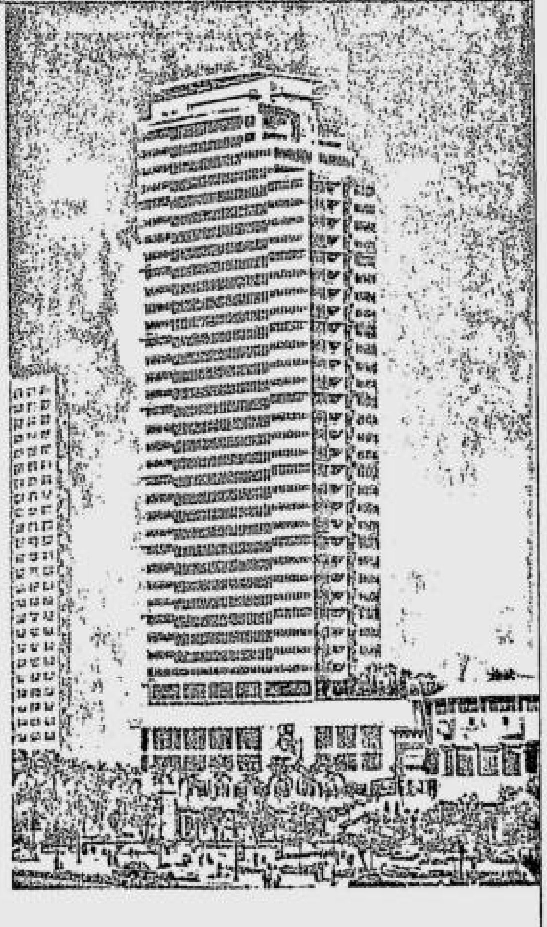

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

TALK N CARE. Asi Taulava visits his number 1 fan, Jay-R Mingao.

Hoops spring eternal

A 19-year-old boy diagnosed with rheumatic heart disease has only one wish—a basketball court to save his youth community from drugs

By Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent

A WISH does not always go unheard—not when you want it more than anything else in the world. And especially not when you could have easily wished for something for yourself but, instead, selflessly opted for one that could save the lives of your peers.

Such is the tale of 19-year-old Jay-R Mingao, an in-patient at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) who suffers from rheumatic heart disease.

Though he has always been a diehard basketball fan, his condition has irrevocably shattered his dreams of playing in the PBA and dribbling alongside his all-time hard court hero, Talk N' Text Phone Pals' Asi Taulava.

Now bedridden, Jay-R has only one wish—to have a basketball court erected for his community inside the Himlayang Palanyag, a municipal cemetery in Parañaque.

Since many young people in this depressed community are into drugs, Jay-R believes that having a basketball court built there would help promote a healthy, wholesome diversion for them.

Coming together

Enter Faith Basketball and the Make-A-Wish Foundation (MAWF).

Faith Basketball came together in the summer of 2002 when then-high school buds Mikko Abello, Chummy Gonzales and Nando de los Reyes organized a team of 11- to 16-year old boys to play in the midgets division of the White Plains summer league.

Apart from coaching, the group served as counselors to kids, prayed and attended Mass with them to encourage team-building and, along with UAAP basketball stars Larry Fonacier, Ranier Sison and BJ Manalo, held a basketball camp for the kids.

Mikko had also been part of the MAWF, the largest such organization in the country. Its aim is to grant the wishes of kids with life-threatening illnesses.

One day at the Philippine General Hospital, Mikko encountered Jay-R's mother, who told him about her son's wish. Though he admits now that Jay-R's wish was quite complicated as it required quite a sum, it was also so unselfish that it was immediately adopted.

"What we try to do in Make-A-Wish is to lift their spirits," says Mikko. "This could make the kid stronger and and help him fight off his sickness."

He rounded up Faith, the pop-capella group Out-of-the-Box and Publicité, a Thames Business School organization, as Jay-R's Wish Team.

The Wish Team's core of Mikko, Haydee Bellen, Ateneo Grade School Basketball coach Jay Salvador, Kritzia Santos, Mina and Amor Herrera, Denise Peralta and Anna Ramos, worked exceptionally hard to grant Jay-R's wish.

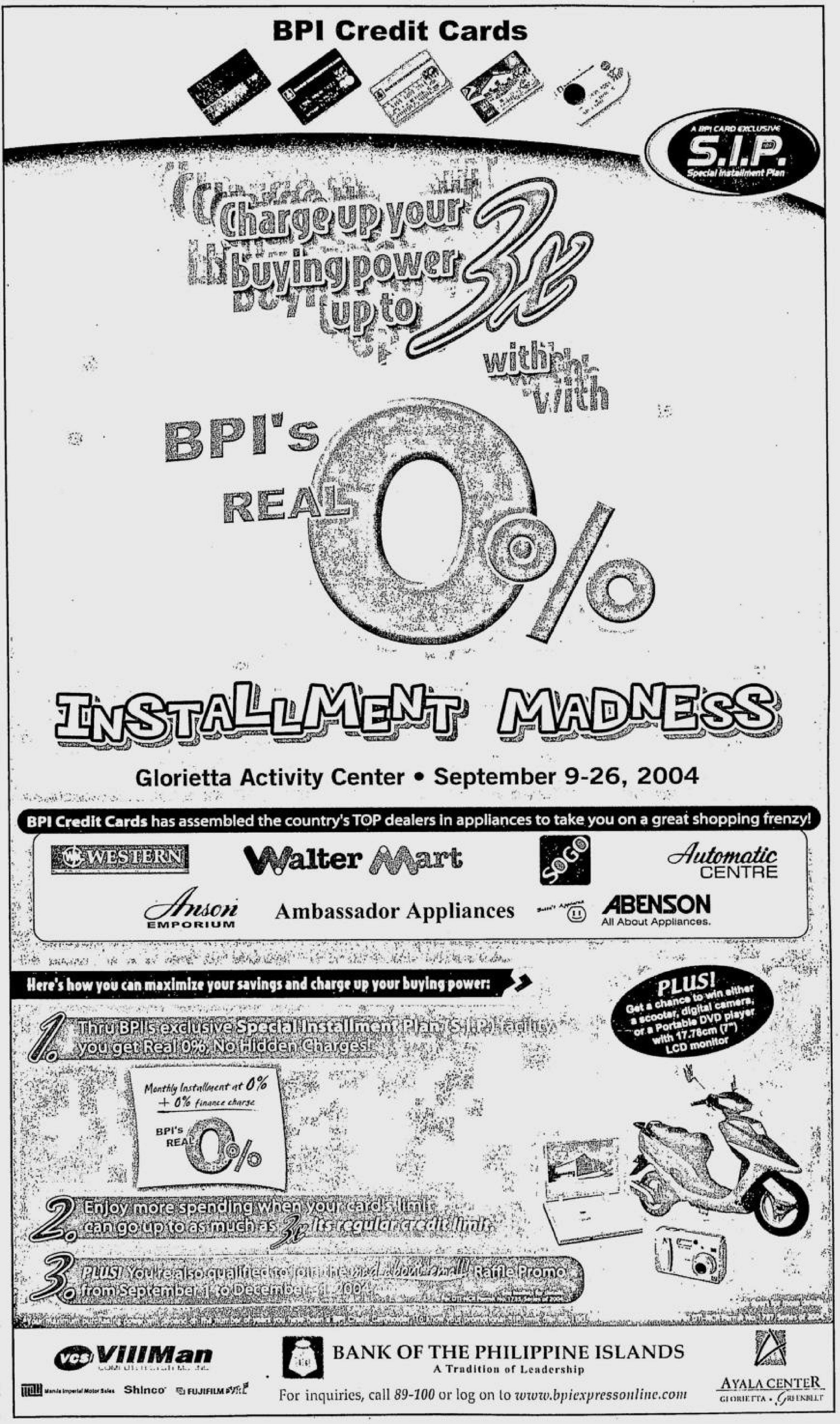
For his birthday several months ago, Jay-R was given a small party at the PGH ward, graced by Ateneo Grade 7 student Biboy Reyes, who wore Asi Taulava's jersey in the recent Philippine Basketball Association juniors league. Biboy served as proxy for Asi who was in the USA at that time. He also gave Jay-R his Asi Taulava jersey and promised to dedicate their team's first Ateneo Pasarelle game to him (which they won).

A few weeks later, Bong Ravena of the Talk N' Text Phone Pals also visited Jay-R on behalf of Asi and the Phone Pals team.

Dream come true

Two weeks later, part one of Jay-R's dream came true when his basketball idol finally

HOOPS/ C2



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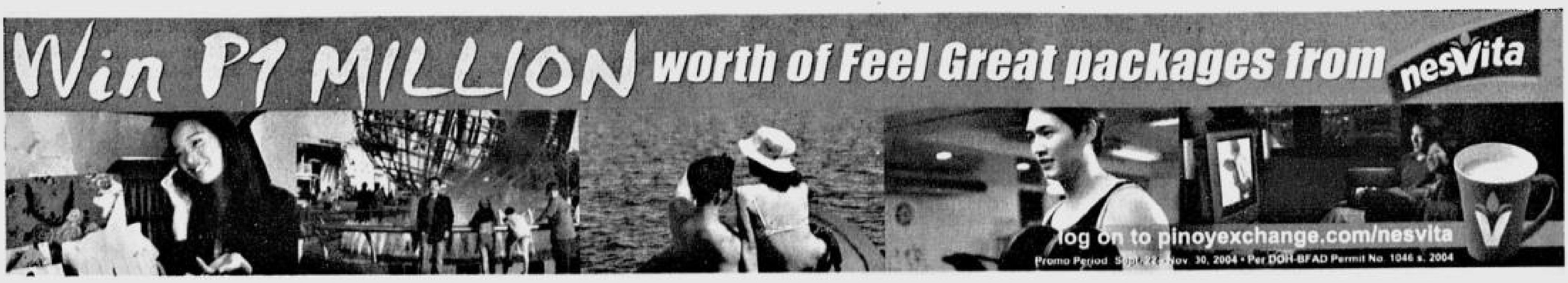

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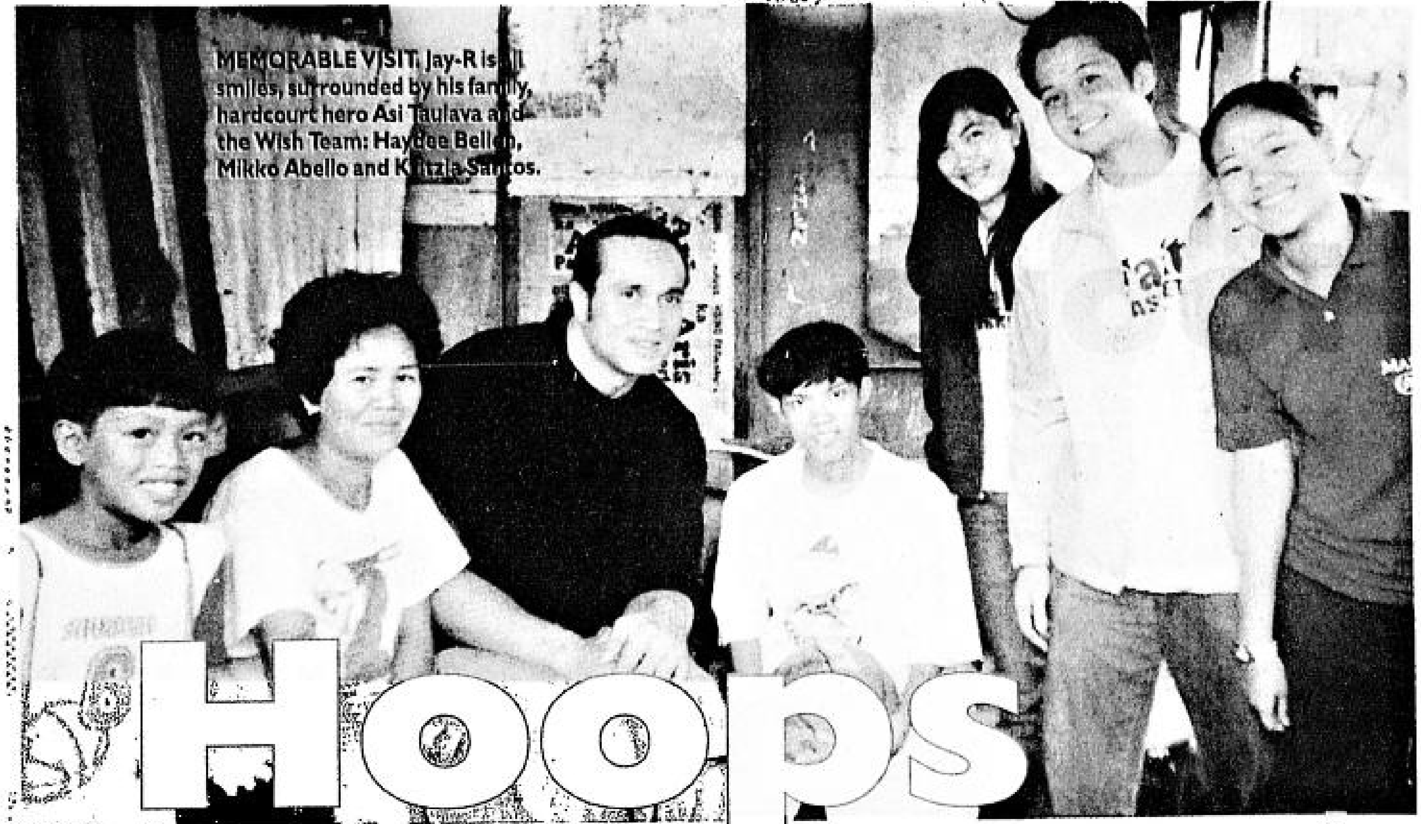

MEMORABLE VISIT. Jay-R is all smiles, surrounded by his family, hardcourt hero Asi Taulava and the Wish Team: Haydee Bellen, Mikko Abello and Kitzia Santos.

Hoops spring eternal

From page C1

came to his home to visit.

"We told Asi to wait in his car first. As much as we wanted it to be a surprise for Jay-R, we knew that his heart was not in the best condition," says Haydee. "But the moment Jay-R saw Asi's tall physique coming out of his car, a big smile spread across his face. It was a big change because he normally had a sad, depressed look on his face, like most sick kids."

It was an incredible moment for Jay-R. Asi gave Jay-R a basketball he had signed and, as the Phone Pals were leaving for Korea the next day, promised to bring the boy things from there on his next visit.

"Asi gave Jay-R a lot of inspirational words," says Mikko. "He constantly told Jay-R to be healthy and strong."

Now that a part of Jay-R's wish has been completed, the Wish Team is moving on to the Big Thing—the construction of the basketball court.

For this, the group has decided to spearhead a series of fundraisers to be able to finance the project. And from the look of things, God seems to be cheering them on.

One day, Mikko and Haydee happened to be at the Barangay Ginebra Gin Kings' office, and they mentioned Jay-R's case to assistant coach Binky Favis. Coach Binky told them to write a letter, and the next day, team manager Allan Caidic called Mikko up to vouch for their team's support.

PLAYING AND PRAYING. Kids learn the basics of basketball and the Christian faith from Faith Basketball and UAAP heroes BJ Manalo and Larry Fonacier.

Thus, the Wish Team's first fundraiser for the Jay-R Mingao basketball court is Champions United—a benefit game between the Talk N' Text Phone Pals and the Barangay Ginebra Gin Kings set for Sept. 25 at the Adidas Sports Kamp in Fort Bonifacio.

The event also comes with performances by 2003 Freestyle Asian Face-off Champion Niño Ventura and his team, "Flip Ballaz," Out-of-the-Box and several other acts.

Gift Gate is at the forefront of the construction of the basketball court for Jay-R. And with every purchase at Swatch stores and kiosks of a Swatch watch, Bijoux or Flik Flak watch until Friday, Gift Gate is giving away two tickets to the exhibition game. These tickets may be donated to other Make-A-Wish kids to give them the chance to see their PBA idols in action.

For more info, call MAWF at 8401553 or 0920-5126960. Or e-mail faithbball@yahoo.com.

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com

We publish stories about young people and groups who are trying to make a difference. Submit articles or send us suggestions at ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Because age is not a hindrance, it's a springboard for change.

THE KIDS of Faith Basketball during their basketball camp

Big hearts wanted!

HAVE you been devoting your time to making the world a better place? Have you been pledging your hours to good causes? Do you know someone dedicated to service?

Join "Change the World Through Volunteerism: The Search for the Best Student Volunteer."

We are looking for college students with a passion for volunteerism. You can nominate yourself or nominate someone else you know.

Send us a photo copy of the nominee's school ID, photos of the nominee and answers to this questionnaire:

Name:
Age:
School:
Course:

Tell us about your volunteer experience (projects, organizations, causes):

Which cause you are most passionate about? (e.g. poverty, arts, literacy)

Why should you be chose as the Best Student Volunteer?

Entries may be sent to "Change the World Through Volunteerism: The Search for the Best Volunteer," Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg., Don Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City, or e-mailed at changetheworld@inquirer.com.ph.

Deadline of submission is on Oct. 4, 12 nn. All nominees will automatically receive a gift pack from Hands On Manila and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

We will be selecting 20 nominees, who will be featured in the pages of 2bU!

On Oct. 24, Hands on Manila and the Philippine Daily Inquirer will have a whole-day affair at the NBC Tent called "VIP: Volunteers in Person."

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

This event, which is sponsored by Bench/HerBench and Kiddieparty.com, will be a fun full-day celebration of the selfless act of volunteerism. At this event, the top 20 nominees will be escorted down the ramp by UAAP players, models and celebrities in a fashion show directed by Ariel Lozada.

The three best volunteers will also be announced at this event, along with the winner in the People's Choice category.

Winners will receive plaques and exciting prizes.

All these, because your big heart and generous spirit deserve to be in the spotlight.

Make Jay-R's wish come true

Here's another way to help

Gift Gate is playing a big role in the construction of the basketball court for Jay-R's community.

And now you have the power to help make other dreams come true.

If you buy a Swatch watch, Swatch Bijoux or Flik Flak watches from any Swatch store or kiosk from now until Sept. 24, you will be given two tickets to the exhibition game. You can choose to keep the tickets or donate them to a Make-A-Wish kid, helping achieve his or her dreams of watching their favorite basketball heroes in action during the exhibition game between the Ginebra Gin Kings and the Talk N' Text Phone Pals on Sept. 25, 6 p.m. at the Adidas Sports Kamp, The Fort.

Three hundred seats are up for grabs for Swatch customers.

Unmasking Slipknot

The band that is a deadringer for Kiss comes to Manila

By Diego Rosano P. Mapa
2bU! Contributor

INDEED, it's the year of foreign acts as Manila has become a must in international concert tour itineraries. Before, fans heard of canceled dates of the likes of Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Oasis, Cardigans and Limp Bizkit. Now, they have been having their share of favorite imported acts from the Black Eyed Peas to Hoobastank.

Now, another visitor is coming to town, and this one is a real monster—Slipknot.

From Des Moines, Iowa (where Ozzy Osbourne once bit off a bat's head in a concert), this nine-piece heavy metal industrial act is a real shocker. Each members wears a distinct horrific mask. The members refuse to show their true identities and prefer interviews on the phone, They are each called by a number, and they are dead serious about their image.

Besides the rhythm section and vocals, they've got two guys on customized titanium percussions (sometimes pounded by baseball bats or whatever they pick up), turntables and samplers.

Slipknot members said that they become their own masks.

According to Revolver magazine's readers' poll, the band truly creates an energetic, jaw-dropping live set. It would moshharder than the audience and stagedive from tremendous heights, while still sounding as tight as their album. That's why the kids just love 'em.

This boiling concert, also organized by Pulp magazine, is on Nov. 13 at the Amoranto Stadium. It's part of their concert tour for their third and most critically acclaimed album, "Vol.3: The Subliminal Verses" (Sony Music).

Described by a critic as "beautiful and brutal," the album was recorded in the allegedly haunted Los Angeles mansion of producer extraordinaire Rick Rubin (The Mars Volta, Audio Slave, RHCP and Rage Against the Machine).

"You can really feel (the effect of the mansion) on the album," said vocalist Corey Taylor. "There were ghosts in the machine, in the equipment. Things would freeze,. things would loop for no reason at all. It was strange."

I had a chat with Joey Jordison (No. 1) at Sony's phone. He's the main drummer and exhibits the Kabuki-influenced mask. I was very afraid, first thinking I'd be talking with some sick guy, but he was very normal. He gave short answers, though. I met a guy who had a chat with Marilyn Manson and he said that Manson was very human beneath the subversive front.

Thus, Slipknot's horrible image is for shock purposes only. So let's see what's behind the mask:

What was it like working with Rick Rubin?

He wouldn't stop us from doing things we wanted. He wanted us to express ourselves all the time.

Was his mansion really haunted?

No, we just wanted to seclude ourselves from the city and live together and focus on making music.

Who were your influences in creating this record?

We weren't listening to anything particularly. We were listening to ourselves.

Other things you do besides being in the band?

I do remixes. Basically all still connected to music. One of the most popular remixes I did was for Marilyn Manson.

Who makes your masks?

I design my own mask. Actually, everybody builds his own mask.

While playing, when it all becomes sweaty and uncomfortable on stage, do you have the urge to remove your mask?

Yes, but we pledged that we'd never remove it, even what circumstance. But off stage, fans still recognize us without it. I don't mind talking to fans when they come up to me. Besides, I'm the most recognizable, I'm the smallest in the group. I'm only 5'4".

What's the first rock album you ever bought?

"Kiss Alive"

If you would cover a song, what would it be?

Good question… Uhm… "Fear of Napalm" from a band called Terrorizer

Do you own an Ipod? What's in it?

Yes, but I don't usually use it. I'm still into my CDs. I'm still into the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and old Anthrax.

Did you ever get into Gwar (a heavy metal band in the late '80s who dressed themselves up as monsters)?

No, not really.

If you could collaborate with anyone, who would it be?

Actually, I've collaborated with almost everyone I like, but now I guess it would be Mike Patton (Faith No More, Tomahawk, Mr. Bungle). Mr. Bungle was one of my favorites, especially Faith No More's "Angel Dust"

What's the process in making your songs?

Sometimes it just starts with a riff, beat, or lyric. Whatever comes first.

Is it true you collaborated with Vanilla Ice?

Vanilla Ice?! That's just some Internet rumor.

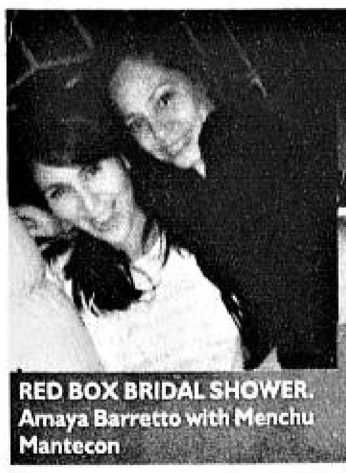
Is it true you're obsessed with Fiona Apple?

That's another rumor.

Now that you're coming to the Philippines soon, what should your fans expect?

I heard that we have a huge fanbase there. And when we play in a country where we've never been, the band is really all out! We are very much excited, we promise to do a great show.

SLIPKNOT will be performing on Manila soil soon.



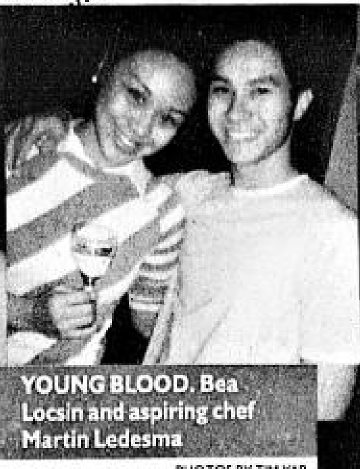
RED BOX BRIDAL SHOWER. Amaya Barretto with Menchu Mantecon

L'OREAL lady Celine Gabriel singing her heart out

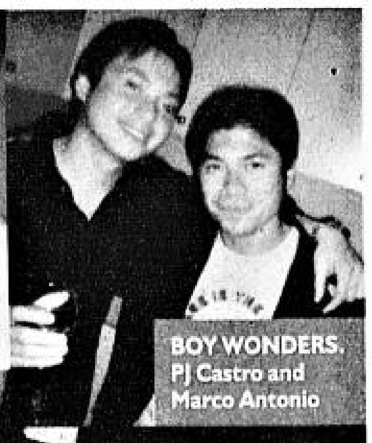
MARITAL BLISS. Marta Luque-Araneta at Red Box

U R FAB. Jessica Guevarra and Joel Tantoco

'IT' ROYALTY. Wendy Puyat-Hotung and Jackie Cohen-Antonio



YOUNG BLOOD. Bea Locsin and aspiring chef Martin Ledesma



BOY WONDERS. PJ Castro and Marco Antonio

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

Where are the partyphiles now?

Tim Yap

AT HOME, partying.

Indeed, the scene goes in cycles. What was once so hot may now be on the cold side of the hip barometer during these fickle times.

Greenbelt is still ground zero for the posh set who are all abuzz over M, the Ayala Museum Café owned by **Martin Wisniewski**. Last week when I visited the place for happening entrepreneur **Joel Ong's** birthday bash, there were lines of people waiting to be seated.

JUST SHOP, SPORTY! Jenni Epperson, Jessa Zaragoza and Rissa Samson at the Diadora launch

DIADORA day with Iza Calzado

DIADORA CENTRAL. LJ Moreno on her way to the con[illegible] court[illegible]

The artsy ambiance enhances the mood of the spot, plus there are enough nooks and crannies for private conversation and frolicsome moments. It helps that chef **Sau del Rosario's** haute cuisine is always exciting and enticing.

This early, without even having a grand launch, M Café is almost fully booked with events and parties.

On the other side of the fence, what was once Mustang is now called Studio M. But this M is not within Greenbelt. It is at the Laureano compound, where legendary party spots like ABG's and Sambo's used to be.

Studio M, owned by nocturnal navigator **Alfred Lopez**, is now a two-story night spot, with an all-white VIP area upstairs complete with a pole for go-go dancing. Oh, did I tell you that the downstairs bar has enough room for more go-go dancing Fil-Am girls? You must remember that this is the home of Mustang Sally (that girl!), whose dancing prowess is known by all guys who read FHM religiously.

It seems like the single-letter-named hot spots are getting popular these days. V, M, M... What's next? E? Well, there's Elements right within the G vicinity (it's the former Prince of Wales). C? Well, that's for the comfort room.

Red, red box

These days, the lure of anything hip is not enough. Sometimes, the most seemingly unhip happening ends up being the most fun. Take the case of my second home these days, Red Box.

One night, the outdoor music of Greenbelt reached noise pollution level (with retro songs from **Rick Astley**, Spandau Ballet, **Debbie Gibson**, etc) so I decided to escape all this by bringing my whole group to Red Box—where we sang "Never Gonna Give You Up," "Gold" and "Electric Youth."

Whether it's a birthday party, despedida or shower party (**Amaya Barretto**, who's getting married this Friday, had a sing-all-night session with her pals hosted by **Bianca Zobel**), Red Box is becoming the choice for folks who want to go on either a "senti" or a song-and-dance trip.

One time I even stepped out of Red Box at 6 on a Sunday morning! (They close at 3 a.m. on weekends.) As in, nobody else was there except my friends and I. The sun was out. The people were jogging and others were on their way to Sunday Mass. And us—we came from a Red Box rave.

Home suite home

Going back to home gatherings, **Celine Lopez** hosted a belated birthday bash for the party scene's prodigal son, **Joel Tantoco**. His reason for being back? Well, let's just say he's back with a vengeance! Goodbye London, hello Manila! (Wink, wink!)

Hip, young Manila was fully present to welcome Joel back into their arms. He is one of the most well-loved partyphiles—and take note, one of the most hard-working as well, taking charge of fashion affairs for their family's Rustan's. The U floor and the men's and women's sections have grown by leaps and bounds under his guidance.

In between martini sips, I hopped to my other favorite place, Struan and Tang, on Pasay Road. It is intimate, Wi-Fi-ready (just like Lumiere—the scene's favorite breakfast and Sunday brunch spot) and with yummy food (prawn puffs, anyone?) and drinks (almond chai martini, strawberry cheescake margarita?).

And now, **August**, a much sought-after tarot card reader (popular with the Makati Shang crowd) is there to tell you who your next boyfriend (or girl friend) will be.

The week's power parties

A couple of weeks back, Italian sports powerhouse Diadora launched its wares at Max Brenner. Donning its sporty spandex were celebs **Iza Calzado**, **Rissa Samson** and **LJ Moreno**.

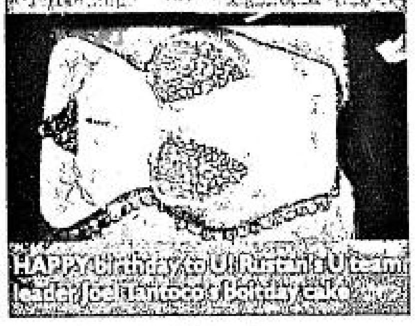
Tomorrow, Manual Magazine unveils its Ten Most Powerful Men Under 40 exhibit at the Podium lounge. Check out its chunkiest issue with **Vanni De Sequerra** as Manual labor force.

And while we're on the subject of power, let's see how the fashion forces collide, and who gets to take home the nod and the trophy for the first ever MTV Style Awards on Tuesday. I'm excited about the "disco-luxe style" of its red carpet!

K TRIPPERS. Kerastase's Angelique Villaraza, Patrick Reyno and Cherry del Rosario

PRECIOUS GEM. Supermodel-turned actress G[illegible]

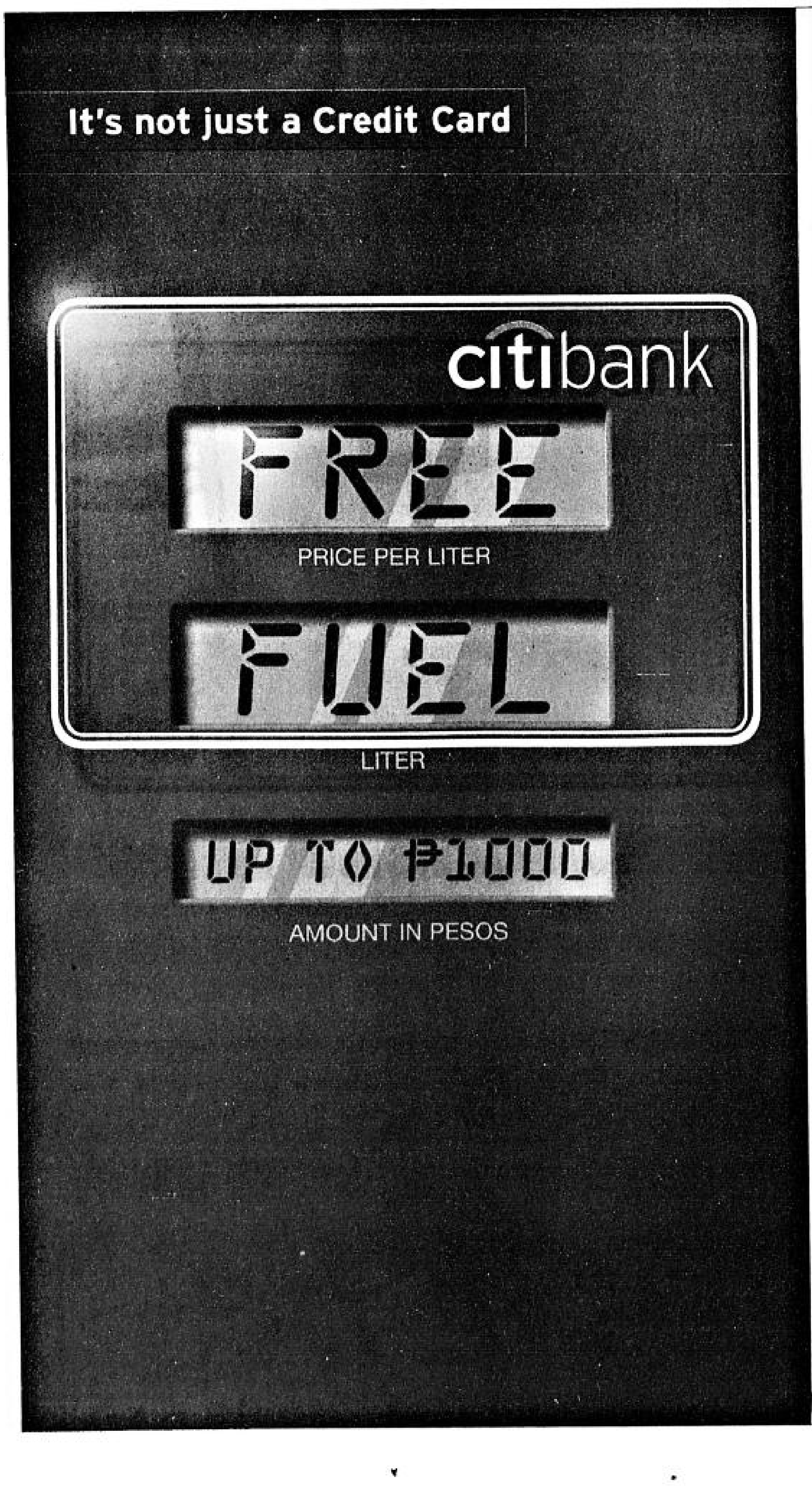
GAME MASTER. Rovilson Fernandez at Struan and Tang



HAPPY birthday to U! Rustan's U team leader Joel Tantoco's birthday cake

On the 29th, prepare to be smoothened as Johnson and Johnson launches its J&J Baby Lotion—Milk! The unveiling of this angel's juice will happen at the Westin ballroom, where instead of drinking milk, we will lather and pamper our skin.

Now how's that for cocooning?



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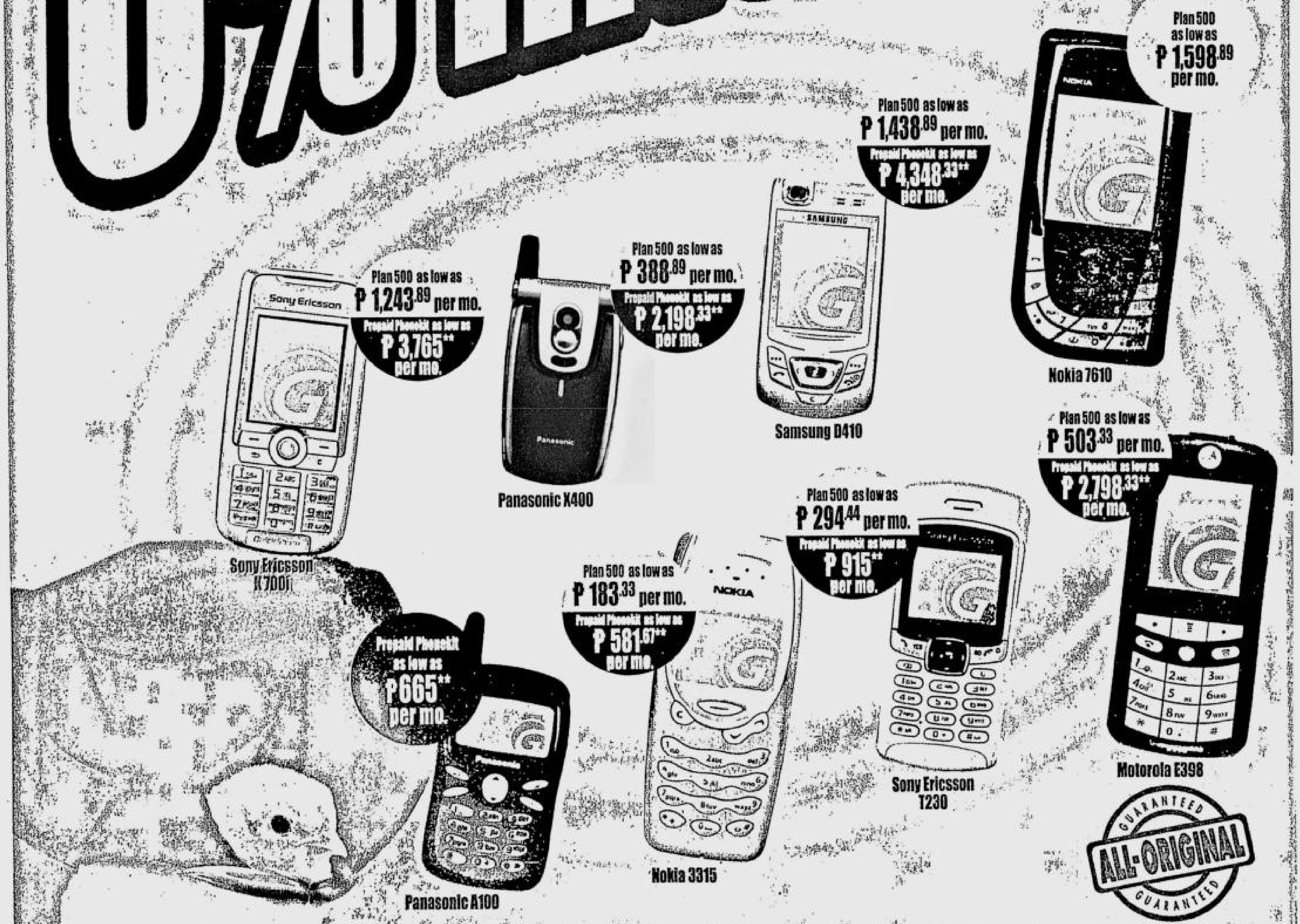
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The Philippine crocodile is close to extinction, unlike its kin in Congress

The Pinoy croc chronicles

By J.R. Victorio
2bU! Correspondent

IT'S UNFAIR to mix Filipino politicians and crocodiles together. It's even more unfair to compare politicians with crocodiles. While one is a cold-blooded vicious monster, the other is a harmless and shy animal classified as critically endangered by the World Conservation Union.

Croc Doc Brady Barr of National Geographic Channel was recently in town to study one of the 23 crocodilian species on earth, the *Crocodylus Mindorensis*.

Endemic to pocket sanctuaries in the valleys of Isabela, the Philippine crocodile is close to extinction, with only less than a hundred remaining in the wilds.

Below are croc pointers or things you should do if you cross paths with the endangered reptile.

Remember the top and tail. When capturing a croc, it's not hard to forget those jaws—they can bite down at 3,000 pounds per square inch. But don't forget to watch out for the tail, too.

Dr. Barr recalls getting a broken leg from the crocodile's whiplash tail. So just when you've gained control of the head, don't forget that the tail may whip around your way.

Small doesn't mean safe. Many people don't think of reptiles as being good parents, but croc mothers can dote on their young for years. If you see a swamp of baby crocs, resist the temptation of coddling them like kittens or pups because you can bet that the mothers are nearby.

Don't get tangled up in rope. When easing a rope or snare over a croc, it may get angry and start thrashing around. If you're tangled in the rope at the bottom of the boat and you go over, you're history.

And never wrap the rope around your hand and especially your neck. A croc can jerk its head and pull your hand or head right off. Dr. Barr witnessed this firsthand during a shooting of National Geographic Channel's "Crocodile Chronicles."

Out of sight, not out of mind. Crocs have extraordinary color eyesight, a great sense of smell and good hearing—all packed in a small area in their skulls. This means that they can lie submerged in water, with only the tiniest part peeking out, and wait for you to make the wrong move. Just because you can't see them,

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Reptilian rapture

The Philippine crocodile is far from the vicious and aggressive monster it is commonly made out to be

IT just occurred to me that in four days I would be another year older, and yet I felt trapped in a desolate room without windows or doors, a space of deafening silence divorced from real life. I was in a loop that went on in circles. I was depressed, and I needed an outlet.

Browsing through my e-mails, I found just the place to vent out my angst: Cagayan Valley. Unlike other 2BU! adventure tours which I had to literally beg for to cover, this expedition had only a few takers. And for one good reason: crocodiles!

No sane person would want to come face to face with a reptile that could rip your limbs off with a snap of its jaws. But as a reptilian fanatic, I knew I would feed myself to the crocs if I had given up the chance to get up close and personal with our cold-blooded friends.

More e-mails and phone calls later with the National Geographic's PR agency here in Manila, Agatep & Associates Inc., I found myself bound for Tuguegarao City via Air Philippines on a lazy Friday noon.

I was already miles away from Manila and yet I still felt miserable and low. Then, thug! The rough landing shook the blues out of me.

Something to be Proud

DR. Brady Barr with the author and other journalists from Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines

Conservation efforts

I was with 13 other media people coming from the Philippines, Thailand and Taiwan. We were there to check out and spread the word on the crocodile conservation efforts of some locals, together with a non-government organization. A press conference awaited us at a local hotel.

Present were people from Crocodile Rehabilitation, Observation and Conservation Project (CROC); Department of Environment and Natural Resources; representatives from the Isabela State University, local media and local government of San Mariano in Isabela.

From the presentation, we gathered that the Philippine crocodile, *Crocodylus mindorensis*, is a critically endangered species endemic only to the country, with only about a hundred or so believed to exist. Thus, the Philippines stands in danger of losing another national treasure if conservation is not undertaken.

As presented by Dr. Merlijn van Weerd, Project Team Leader of CROC, the Philippine crocodile somehow represents the Filipino people with its small features and shy and harmless character. This is far from the general misconception that the animal is a vicious and aggressive monster, and what's more, a virtual stand-in for corrupt government officials.

The following day, we were given the chance to explore two caves, Callao and Sierra (out of some 300 in the area). The seven-chambered Callao Cave boasts of massive limestone formations, a skylight and a chapel within its second chamber. However, one must endure climbing 187 steps to its opening.

More difficult to reach was the dark and wet Sierra Cave. Here we had to pass through thick vegetation to a gate-enclosed entrance that dropped 10 feet to a cavern. Inside are spectacular stalactite and stalagmite formations and, sadly, signs of widespread desecration by visitors and greedy rock hunters.

Scheduled for the afternoon was a closed-door interview with Dr. Brady Barr, host of National Geographic's series of Crocodile Chronicles. This herpetologist (nope; he's not into sexually transmitted diseases) has, among others, been bitten in the face by a large boa constrictor and attacked by an angry crocodile. But his passion for reptiles drives him to explore more swamps, rivers and caves around the world in search of more knowledge about these animals.

Undiscovered paradise

Next day we were off to the barrio of San Mariano to visit the crocodile sanctuary located in a stretch of the Disulap River. For 30 minutes, we hacked our way through mud, soil and two-meter-high corn crops and thorny cogon grass before reaching the rocky banks of the river, all murky and tired.

But the exhaustion was all worth it, as the place looked like an undiscovered paradise. I immediately jumped into the cold water, unmindful of getting my muddy shoes and pants wet. I was having so much fun on my birthday that I completely forgot I was in crocodile country. But what the heck!

We enjoyed a feast of fried freshwater fish, string beans in soy sauce, pork cutlets in soy sauce and vinegar, and rice noodle soup (*tilapia*, *sitaw*, *adobo* and *misua*) courtesy of our host, the caretaker of the sanctuary.

Afterwards, we had to trek back to our vehicles. Since it was night already, we communicated by making howling sounds so as not to lose each other. After a few more hours of bumping along on rough roads, we staggered into town—only to discover that restaurants in Cagayan closed early.

But we did find one, a local fast food house named "Tasty Hut." It was everything but. Still, we were famished, so we had a blast nonetheless.

Well, all good things must come to an end. As I packed my wet and muddy clothes into my bags, I realized that I would not only bring home bruises, lots of dirt and stories to tell, but also memories of adventure and fun with new friends from other countries.

Better yet, I now saw crocodiles in a new light. With the ordeal they're going through to survive the modern world, I had no excuse to feel sorry for myself. My lingering self-pity deserved nothing more than crocodile tears. *J.R. Victorio*

E-mail the author at jr_victorio@yahoo.com

Bring it on!

The valiant efforts of many schools were

the powerhouse squad of the UST Saling

Text and photos by Ruth L. Navarra

A CHALLENGE had been issued and eight teams came to answer.

The cheerdancers clad in yellow, maroon, green, red and blue, armed with pompoms and other cheering paraphernalia, marched to Araneta Coliseum. Their mission: conquer the 6th UAAP Nestle Nonstop Black Cheerdancing Competition.

As people started to fill the hall, the cheerdancers prepared in their dugouts.

Ateneo was reading text messages from their supporters, La Salle was doing some pep talk, Adamson received last-minute instructions from their coach, UE was taking photos for souvenirs and NU was doing some stretching.

In between the flurry of makeup and costume changes was the excited energy that filled the air.

Somber vibe

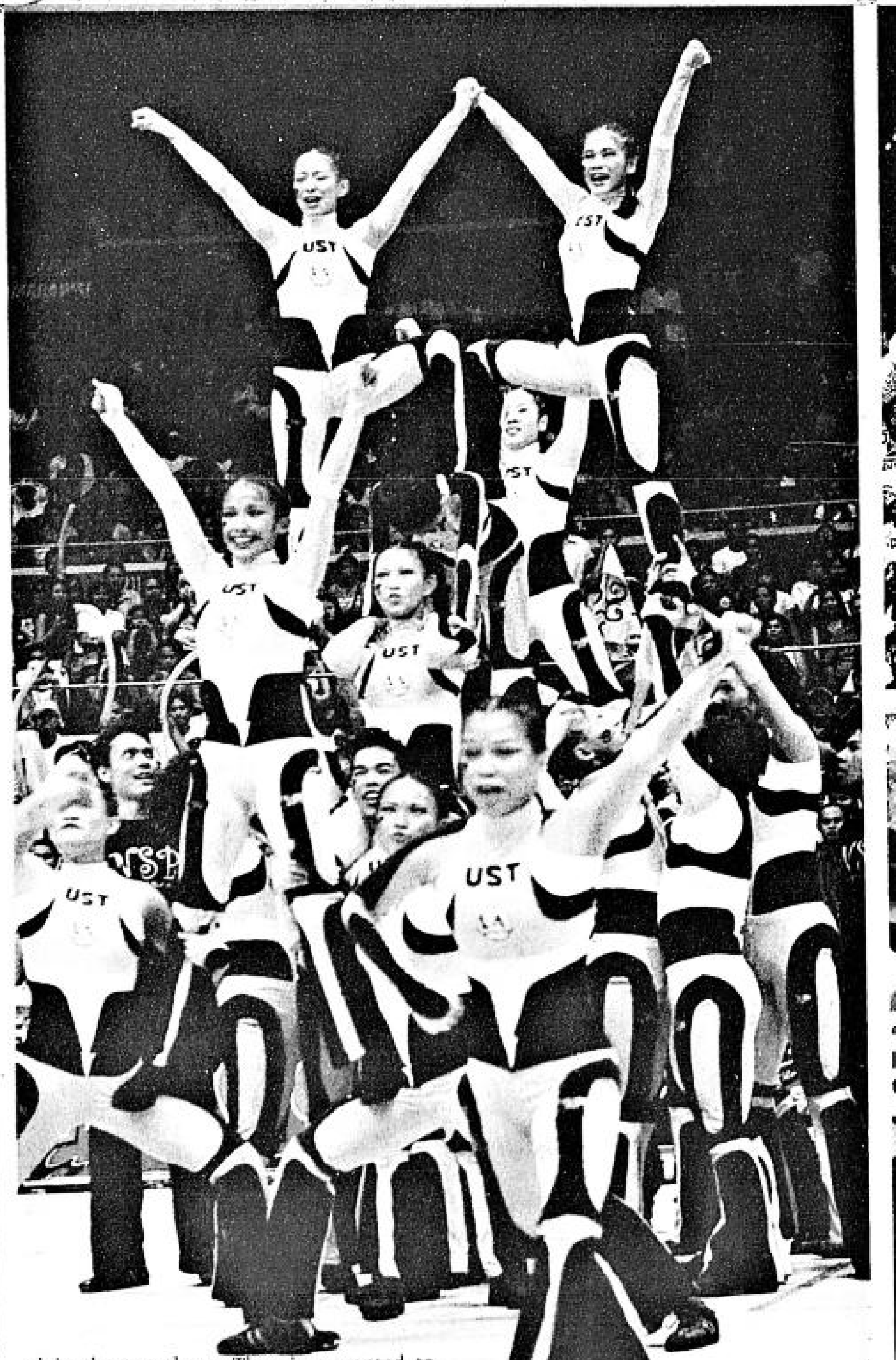
The Far Eastern University pep squad, however, had a different vibe. In their dressing room, they rarely smiled, their expressions uniformly somber.

"We just learned that morning that some of our uniforms were not yet ready," said team captain Brian Peralta in Filipino. "Our choreographer kept on telling us that the judges would rate our performance, not our uniforms. But it was still painful for us."

Due to the mix-up, most members of the squad were forced to wear the same outfit they had last year—faded uniforms that had obviously seen better days.

The hardest part of the ordeal, they said, was that the crowd would definitely notice. Thus, they no longer expected to be included in the top three. They just wanted to please the crowd who went all the way from Recto to support them. So they went out, smiled and performed.

IT'S hard to put a good team down. The FEU squad showing what they're made of AUGUST DELA CRUZ



GRAND SLAM. The UST Salinggawi Dance Troupe takes home the trophy for the third time. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

And what do you know, they placed third! Their victory seemed as sweet as getting the grand prize.

The University of the Philippines Pep Squad's chaperone was very protective of her cheerdancers. She requested that interviews be done after the event as the team had to concentrate on staying focused.

The team's approach was to do a "mental rehearsal" before the actual competition. Meaning, they practiced their routine in their heads.

UP's team is famous for trend-setting fashion in the cheerleading arena, so it has become part of the competition to anticipate what they would wear every year. This time, they decreed that "classic and simple" was the norm again.

Ever since they lost their crown three years ago, UP's rah-rah team had worked mightily to reclaim the honor. They had spent months of grueling practice, working on their routines five to six hours a day.

"OOOH-NIBERSIDAD ng Pilipinas!" The UP Pep Squad working hard for a shot at the crown AUGUST DELA CRUZ

"LORD, every lift we make, we lift to you," says the La Salle team.

"GOD, please be a Thomasian."

Powerhouse squad

But even their most valiant efforts wer enough to topple the powerhouse squa the UST Salinggawi Dance Troupe.

Before the Salinggawi performed the n orable helicopter toss in front of the estim 17,000 crowd, the squad had repeatedl hearsed it in the driveway of the Big Dom

"We wanted to execute our routines fectly or come close to it," said team ca Jacky Tan in Filipino.

Given the team's fondness for somers in the air, anything less than perfection w have been dangerous.

Happily, this was one team that wouldn't be caught off-guard, either by eras, the press or a heckling crowd. In candid moments, what you get is a pictu a happy and relaxed squad.

That's why, if having fun was the for for success in cheerleading, then the S gawi was most certainly doing one heck job. They won their third consecutive that day.

While a sea of yellow triumphantly ch "Go Uste!" to bring the team to a stirrin ish, the other teams raised their fists and their own school hymn.

It was a moment of glory not only fo winners but also for every team who pa pated in the competition and showed what school spirit meant.

FEARSOME warriors from the East

THEY bark and they bite. The NU Bulldogs overhauled their whole routine this year.

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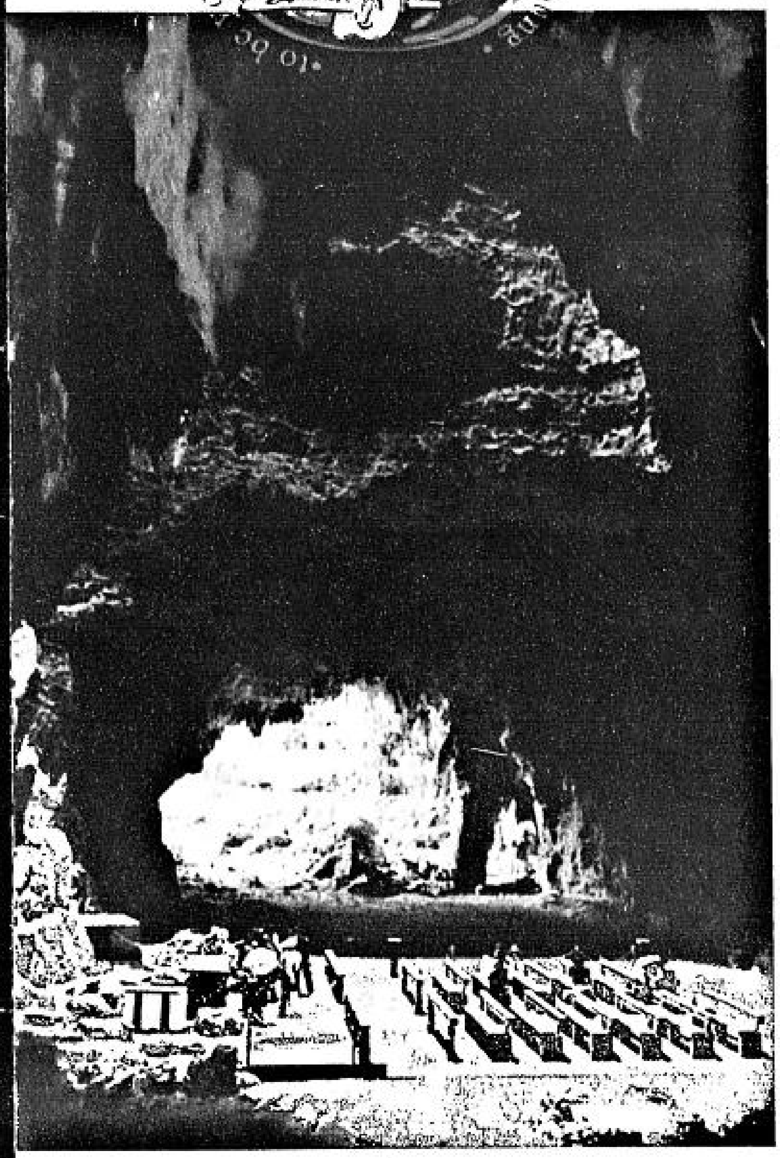

LAO cave

The Pinoy croc chronicles

DR. Barr, the author and a captive crocodile

From page D1

it doesn't mean they can't see you.

Know your crocs. When we talk about crocs, we're talking about any member of the reptile order. Crocodylia—that means crocodile, alligators, caimans and gharials.

One of the questions that people frequently ask is the difference between an alligator and a crocodile. The easiest way to tell is from the shape of their heads—gators have powerful duckbill snouts for eating hardshell preys such as turtles. Crocodiles have a broader snout because they're more of generalists —they hunt a larger variety of prey.

Stop! Or this croc will bite! When you're around a croc, you have to move slowly if you want to keep him calm. Avoid sudden movements.

Beware of the breeding season. Male crocs are most aggressive during the breeding season. They're very territorial, and if you're in their domain, you better be careful, even if you're on a boat. Males may view boats as either another croc or just something they don't want in their space, so they may attack the boat.

Crocs don't chew, they tear. Crocs swallow their food whole or tear off pieces—and that's why you see cooperative feeding with crocs. Their teeth alternate upper, lower, upper, lower, so they bite down, do what's called the "death roll" and basically tear along the dotted line.

To make up for the fact that they cannot chew their food, they have incredibly strong stomach acids that can readily dissolve bone. But they can't digest keratin, which makes up the hair, feathers and hooves. So crocs regurgitate that stuff, just like cats coughing up a hairball.

Formerly widely distributed throughout the Philippines, the Philippine crocodile is now thought to be restricted to a few remote areas in Mindanao, Negros and Luzon.

They were first seen in 1935 on Mindoro (hence the name *C. mindorensis*). But there has been no crocodile sited in the island recently.

In 1999, crocodiles were spotted in the municipality of San Mariano, Isabela. Since then, six sub-populations have been identified, and conservation efforts are being undertaken to preserve their sanctuaries.

The lack of awareness and the undeserved bad reputation of these reptiles have led to their fast eradication, abetted by hunting, illegal logging, slash-and-burn farming and soil erosion.

Together with the provincial government of Isabela, Isabela State University and Leiden University of the Netherlands; and in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Crocodile Rehabilitation, Observation and Conservation project was established to protect the wildlife and to provide information to communities so as to save the endangered freshwater crocodile of the Philippines.

E-mail vanderploegjan@pacific.net.ph

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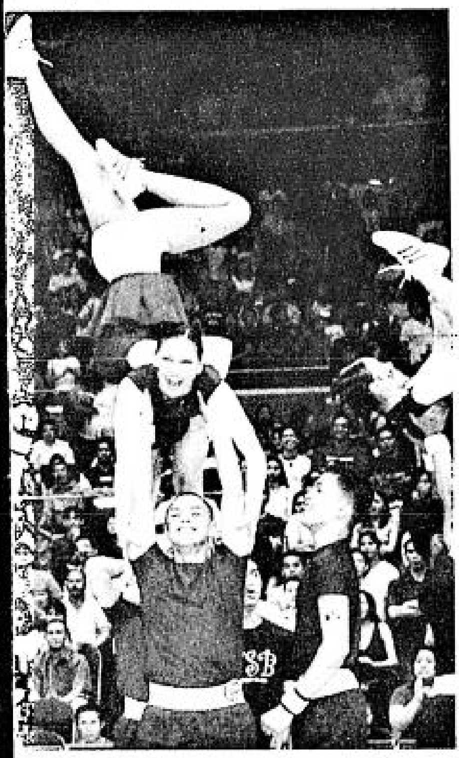
not enough to topple gawi Dance Troupe



NO bad blood in this team. The Adamson Falcons had a retreat just before the competitions.

THE ATENEO pep squad reads messages of support from their big fans—the Blue Eagles.

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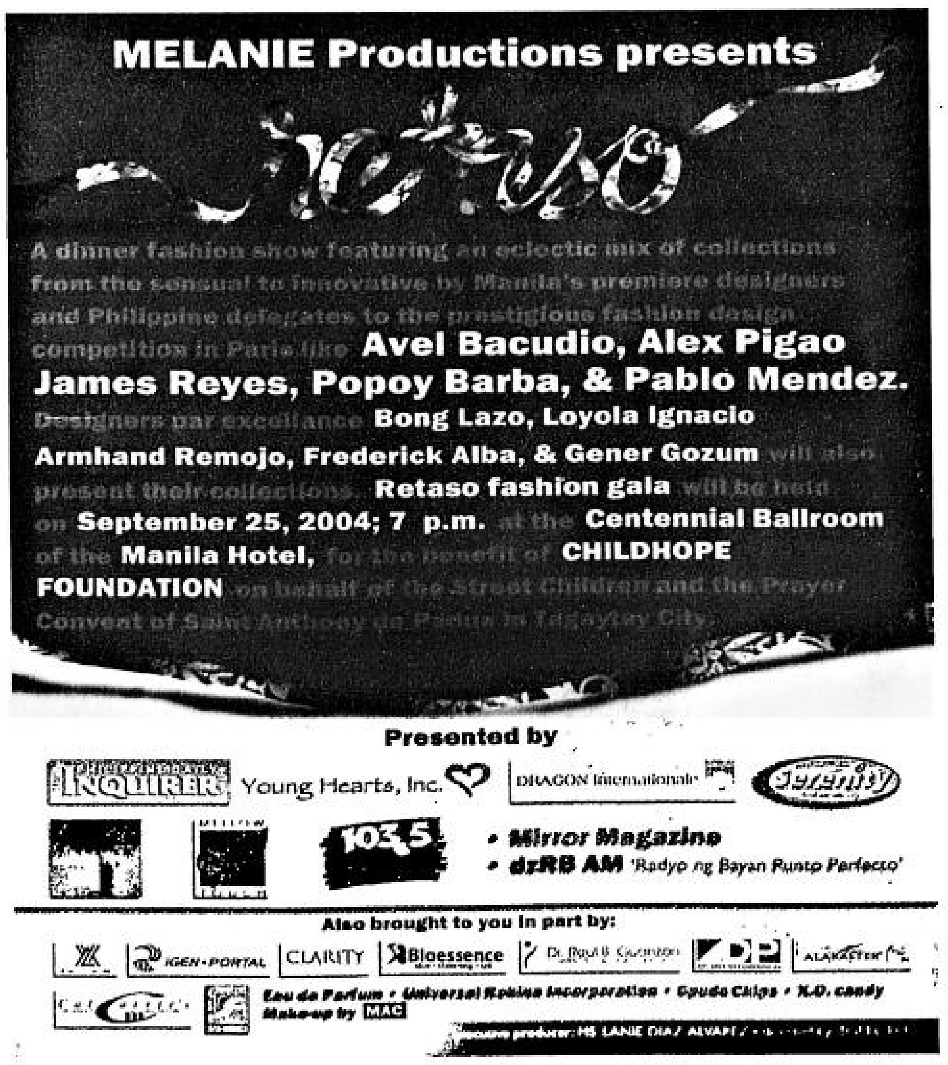

MELANIE Productions presents
Retaso
A dinner fashion show featuring an eclectic mix of collections from the sensual to innovative by Manila's premiere designers and Philippine delegates to the prestigious fashion design competition in Paris like **Avel Bacudio, Alex Pigao James Reyes, Popoy Barba, & Pablo Mendez.** Designers par excellance **Bong Lazo, Loyola Ignacio Armhand Remojo, Frederick Alba, & Gener Gozum** will also present their collections. **Retaso fashion gala** will be held on **September 25, 2004; 7 p.m.** at the **Centennial Ballroom** of the **Manila Hotel,** for the benefit of **CHILDHOPE FOUNDATION** on behalf of the Street Children and the Prayer Convent of Saint Anthony de Padua in Tagaytay City.
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The CCRRUNNCCH That's Heard Across The World!
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NAGARAYA
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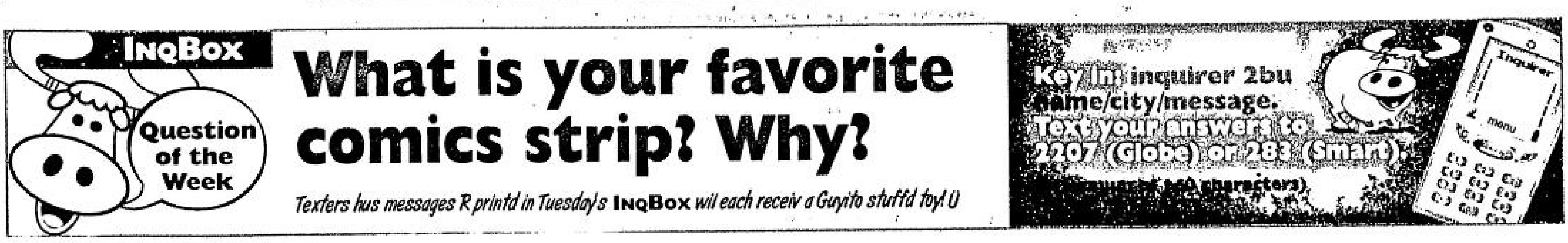
A Pinoy favorite has made it to the international scene! Now, Nagaraya is available and enjoyed in Asia, Australia, U.S., Canada, Europe and the Middle East.
Food Industries, Inc.



INQBox
Question of the Week
What is your favorite comics strip? Why?
Texters hus messages R printd in Tuesday's INQBox wil each receiv a Guyito stuffd toy! U
Key in: inquirer 2bu name/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
(maximum of 160 characters)

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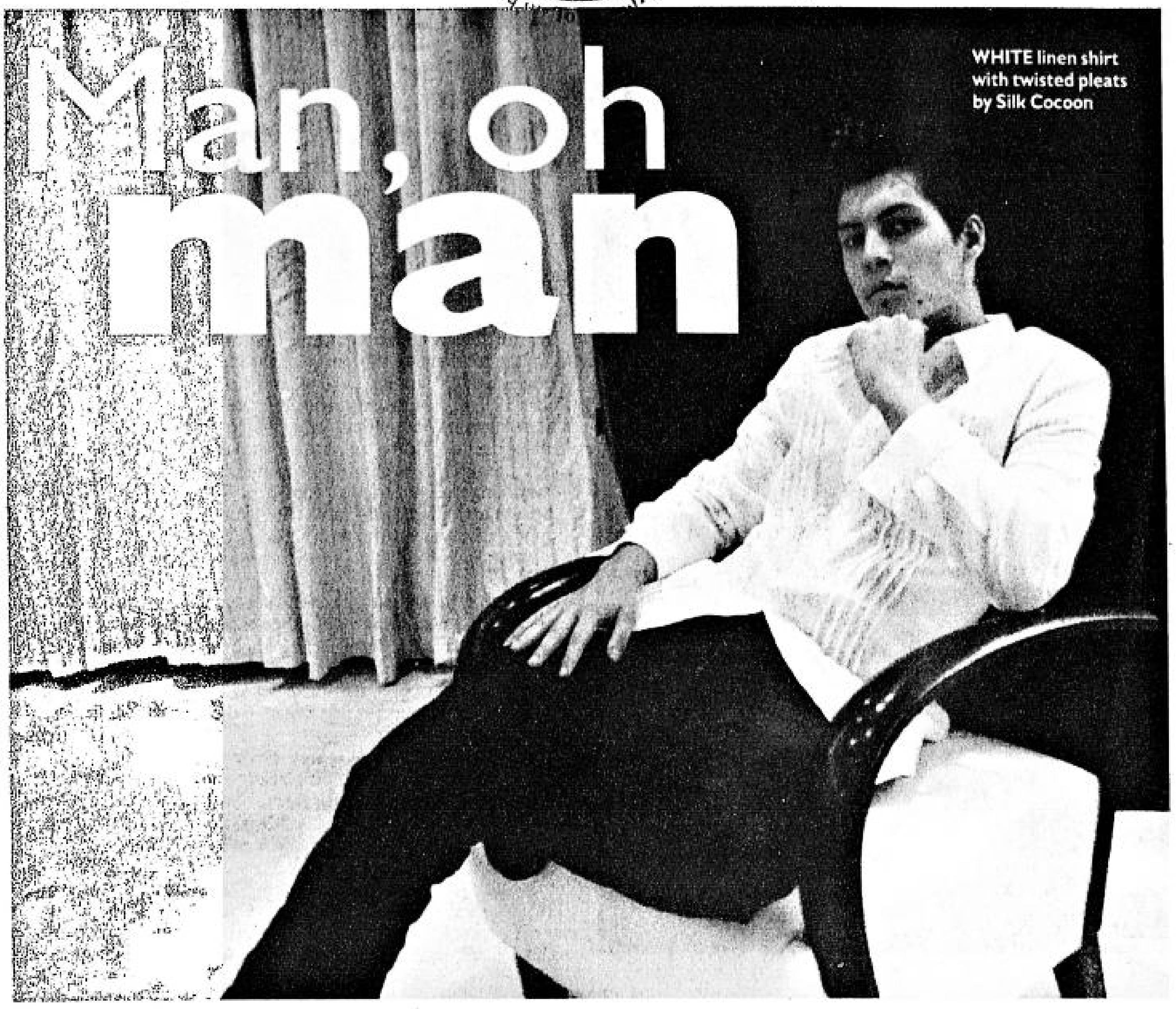
Man, oh man

Marcos Sainz has a computer engineering degree, music course at Berklee, a versatile band, good looks and inner peace to boot

HANDWOVEN silk shirt with silk frisson embroidery by Silk Cocoon

PHOTOS: RAFFY LERMA



WHITE linen shirt with twisted pleats by Silk Cocoon

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

ONE good look at the undeniably good-looking Marcos Sainz, and our usual assumptions about such species kick in. Like he must be your typical macho man—a huge heartbreaker and love magnet, à la Julio Iglesias in his prime.

But, although some hours' worth of chitchat and goofing around doesn't qualify me to know him thoroughly, let me assure you that, from our conversations, he turns out to be nowhere near that macho-man stereotype.

Born in the Philippines but brought up in Spain, this half-Pinoy, half-Spanish dude took up college in New York City and is now getting more units in Massachusetts.

Given his good looks, some people may assume that Marcos is a moron. Well, take this: Not only is he an autodidactic pianist (someone who learned to play on his own) who is finally taking formal lessons at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, he also worked for Palm right after finishing his Computer Engineering course in Columbia University. And did I mention that he graduated summa cum laude? Oh, and he does yoga, too.

Second look

For a guy like Marcos who was into soccer, squash and rock-climbing, yoga was a no-no at first. "I thought yoga was for girls," he says. His then-girlfriend was already into it, but Marcos simply thought the lifestyle wasn't for him.

Strangely, it was when the couple broke up that Marcos gave yoga a second look, after realizing it could be helpful in treating his chronic back pain.

After approximately a year and a half of bends, poses and deep breaths for 90-120 minutes every morning, six days a week, Marcos has gotten rid of the backache. And he says he has achieved a measure of inner peace.

Which is something he undoubtedly needs, considering that he has four fields of interest to focus his time, attention and energy on: engineering, yoga, music and modeling. And, as he is quick to add: "Living in New York for seven years—that's not peace."

As a yogi, Marcos has shifted from a meat-based diet to a lactovegetarian one. And he has taken his study and practice of yoga to another level by playing teacher (unofficially for me) to a number of enthusiasts.

His goal, as with every yogi? "Nirvana. Complete pure happiness. Union with God. Culmination of spiritual practice," he says.

Fave activity

But piano playing will always remain Marcos' favorite activity.

He was a pianist/keyboardist for a band in Spain, back when he was 14. After realizing he could make a career out of his talent, he sent Berklee a demo CD in 2002, which promptly got him in—on a scholarship at that.

The timing was great. Palm had laid off its employees, including Marcos, so he had the perfect excuse to leave work and go back to school.

It's been a year down for him at the prestigious school, with a couple more to go. So far, so good, he says. He has his own band called Bora, where, apart from being the man behind the keys, he also plays travel agent, driver, sound technician, composer and arranger.

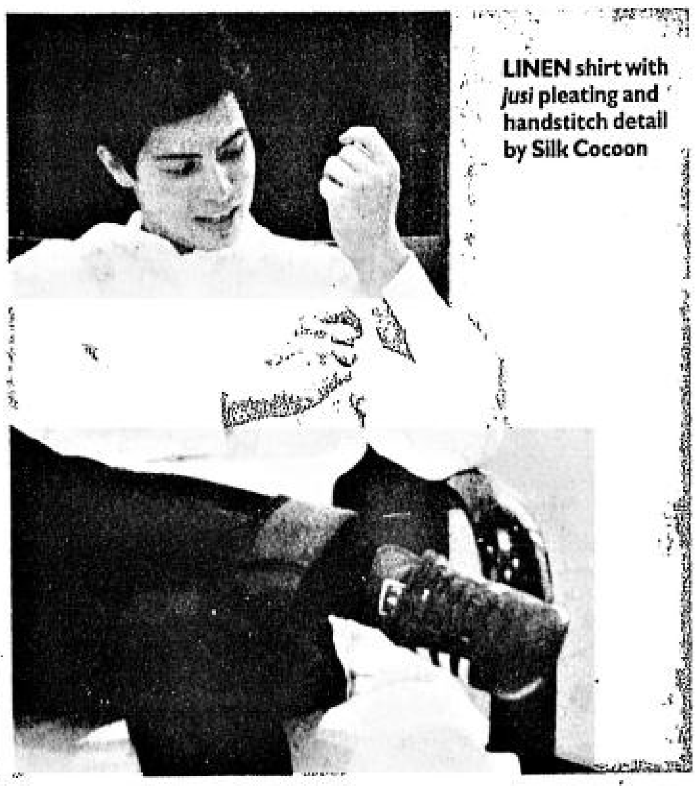
Made up of talented, idiosyncratic music lovers from five different countries, Bora's sound is pretty much "energetic, funk, dance, R&B, jazzy harmonies, acid, some of them laidback, with Brazilian rhythms," says Marcos. He likens it to acts such as Incognito, the Brand New Heavies and Jamiroquai—in other words, an ear-friendly band that happens to have drool-worthy members as well.

And when will Pinoys get to see and hear Bora?

"It depends," says Marcos. By that he means his ability to scrape enough funds to fly the whole band to the Philippines. But he says he'd love to have his fellow Pinoys groove to the band.

Paging big-money sponsors out there. Surely, we don't have to wait for summer to taste Bora?

E-mail the author at marksablan_2bu@yahoo.com



LINEN shirt with *jusi* pleating and handstitch detail by Silk Cocoon

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of baby items

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Disney baby
Showcase

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Quick beauty perk-ups

Search your product collection for magic potions or discover new ones and try one of these snappy mini-makeovers

Vanity Fare

Lora Gabol

THE THING I love most about this whole business of beauty is how little it takes to perk yourself up.

These days, a makeover doesn't always require an impossible slew of the latest products or the aid of intensively-trained professionals. Sometimes, the best picker-upper could be that unassuming tube you've stashed in your medicine cabinet eons ago.

So, need a quick beauty lift? Search your product collection for magic potions or discover new ones and try one (or all!) of these mini-makeovers for a good hair/skin/face day!

Céleteque Facial Wash and Water-Based Moisturizer. It's been a while since I last stepped out of the house with absolutely nothing on my face—tinted moisturizer is usually my minimum, as my skin can get dry.

Now, though, when I feel the need to let my skin breathe, this is the combo I turn to for a fresh face. The wash leaves my face clean—not parched—with its natural moisturizing factor. I follow up with the wonderfully cool gel moisturizer that melts right into my skin. Then I go on with my day with nary a need for retouching or fussing over the condition of my complexion.

Bench Fix Wearable Treatment. Do you wake up in the morning and wish you had a stylist waiting in the bathroom for your crowning glory? You can go on wishing, or you can get yourself a handy styling aid-slash-conditioner like this one from Bench.

A pea-sized dollop will get those strays behaving, while a little more will give your hair the hold of a light gel and the manageability of an anti-frizz serum. This is best for any hair type, except for extremely curly textures. For those, you'll do better with a spray-on prod that won't weigh your locks down, like **Bench Fix Shine Spray,** to tame that mane.

Prestige Eyeliner. I don't like wearing makeup—too much of it anyway. But when I want to look made-up with the least possible damage to my *kikay* kit, I bring out eyeliner and glam up my eyes.

Perfect for a fuss-free night look, Prestige eyeliners give just the right amount of smudge. You won't look like a raccoon on your first visit to the ladies' room for a touch-up.

Shu Uemura Eyelash Curler. I can't stress it enough: Curl your lashes! It's the best trick that doesn't involve chemicals or possible damage to your skin. And I can't stress this any further: Shu Uemura has the best lash curler. Just take my word for it—or every other girl's, for that matter. Go get yourself one!

Maybelline Lip Smooth in Cherry. This has always been my favorite low-maintenance lip care-slash-color, but I've switched to the cherry-flavored one.

I used to tote Lip Smooth in Brownie wherever I went, until I realized that the nude shade disappeared right into my post-summer paleness. Cherry gives me a subtle, just-bitten, un-Lipps candy pink that goes perfectly with a slight flush.

The Body Collection Coconut Cream Twinkling Body Shimmer. Though it comes in a cutesy-kiddy little package, this gorgeous tube of beach-babe glow is anything but.

If you'd want to feel extra sexy in that shoulder-baring top, slather on this yummy-scented body shimmer and light up your entire look (and the entire room when you step in). Use a small amount on your cheekbones as a highlighter, too, if you want more glam.

Philosophy Pure Grace Cologne Spray. The only scent that has the soap-and-water-cleanliness captured in a bottle, Philosophy Pure Grace is the only cologne you'd ever need for everyday and night.

I absolutely love the freshness it lends my spirit (it's true—I'm not just being cheesy about it), regardless of whether I spray it on in the morning or as an alternative to caffeine on late nights.

The Body Shop Matte It. Useful for either your lips or your complexion, this product can give your lippie and your face an entirely different look with a discreet swipe.

If you'd rather be polished princess than dewy dame, a few drops of Matte It will instantly banish all traces of shine without dryness. A dash of this prod will give your face a traffic-stopping matte finish in a snap.

Clarins Instant Tanning Gel. A tan can turn any Plain Jane into a sizzling Brazilian babe. Okay, not exactly, but there's something about a bronze sheen that spells s-e-x-y even when the sun and sand are still a plane and boat ride away.

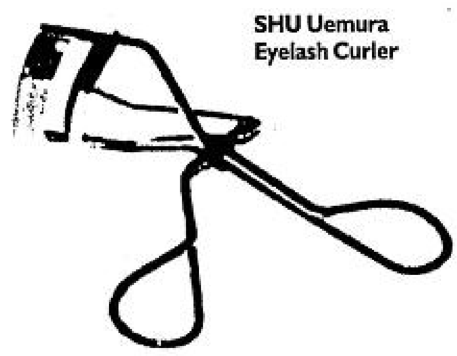
Clarins is still the faux tan authority, so if you can't wait for a beach trip, grab a tube and indulge your holiday fantasies through your skin.

Mistine Lip and Cheek Tint. I don't mind beginning to sound like a broken record on account of this product. I found myself paler than ever with a bad case of the sniffles this week, and this was my only salvation!

I'd wake up a ghastly white, but a few drops of this genius of a blush gave my poor health a pretty disguise. What can I say? I love this product.

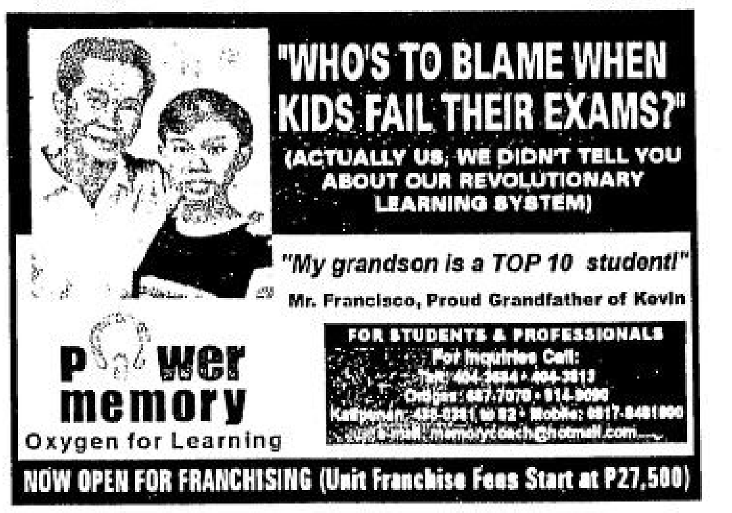
Mistine at Mimi Cosmetics, Independent Lifestyles Wing, Rockwell Powerplant Mall; Shu Uemura, Clarins at Rustan's; The Body Shop at major malls; Philosophy, The Body Collection, Prestige at Beauty Bar; Céleteque at drugstores and health and beauty stores; Maybelline, Bench Fix at PCX.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com or pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com



SHU Uemura Eyelash Curler

CÉLETEQUE Water-Based Moisturizer and Facial Wash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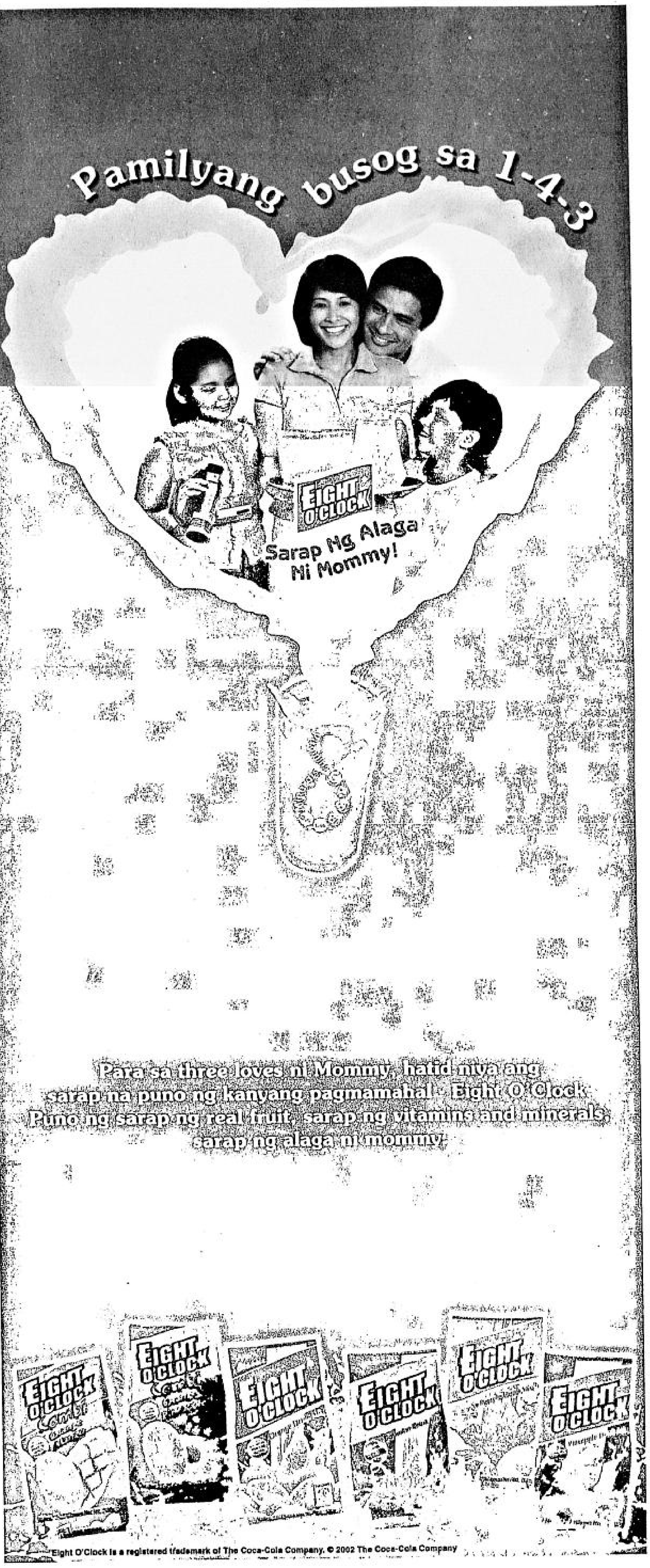

Pamilyang busog sa 1-4-3
EIGHT O'CLOCK
Sarap Ng Alaga Ni Mommy!
Para sa three loves ni Mommy, hatid niya ang sarap na puno ng kanyang pagmamahal - Eight O'Clock.
Puno ng sarap ng real fruit, sarap ng vitamins and minerals, sarap ng alaga ni mommy.
EIGHT O'CLOCK
EIGHT O'CLOCK
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EIGHT O'CLOCK
EIGHT O'CLOCK
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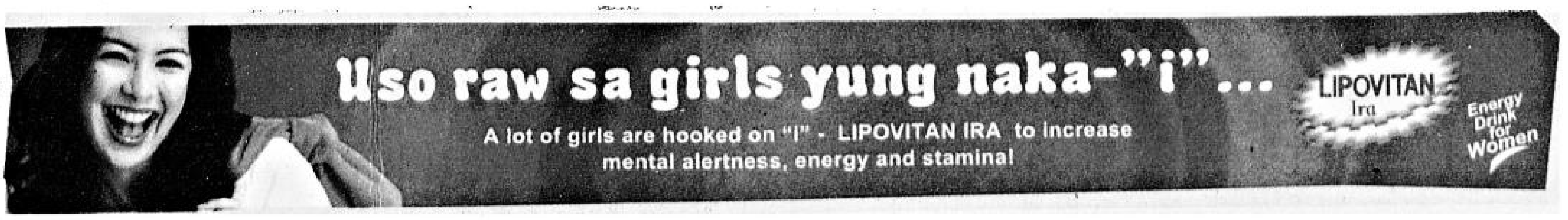
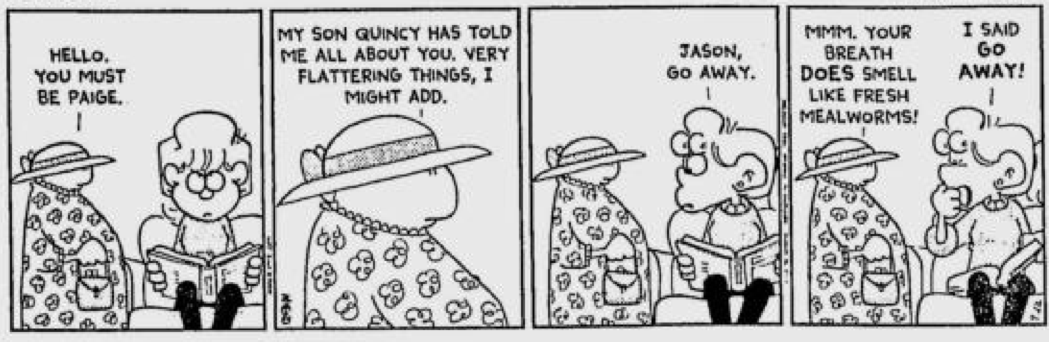


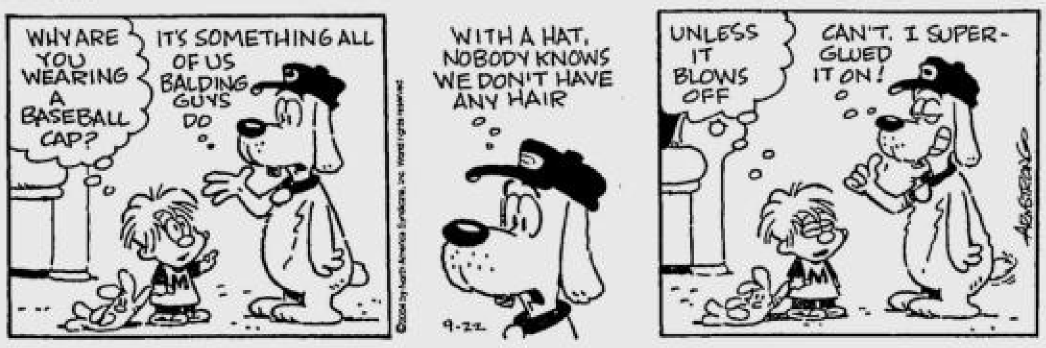
Uso raw sa girls yung naka-"i"...
A lot of girls are hooked on "i" - LIPOVITAN IRA to increase mental alertness, energy and stamina!
LIPOVITAN Ira
Energy Drink for Women

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ComicRelief
e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2004

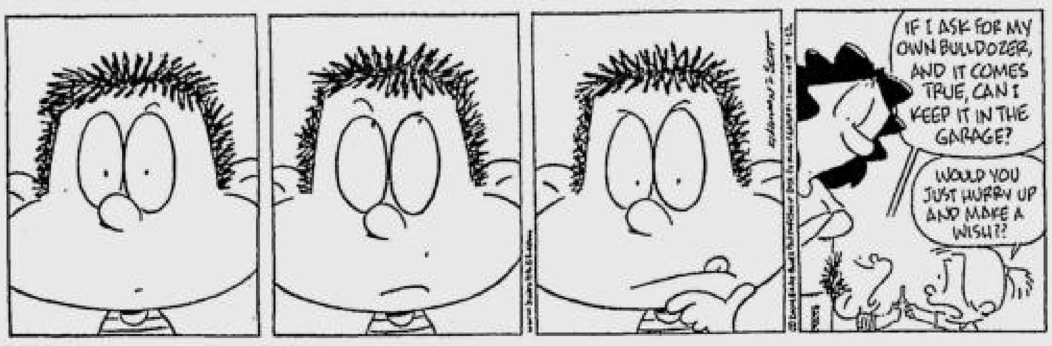
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


HELLO. YOU MUST BE PAIGE.
MY SON QUINCY HAS TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU. VERY FLATTERING THINGS, I MIGHT ADD.
JASON, GO AWAY.
MMM. YOUR BREATH DOES SMELL LIKE FRESH MEALWORMS!
I SAID GO AWAY!

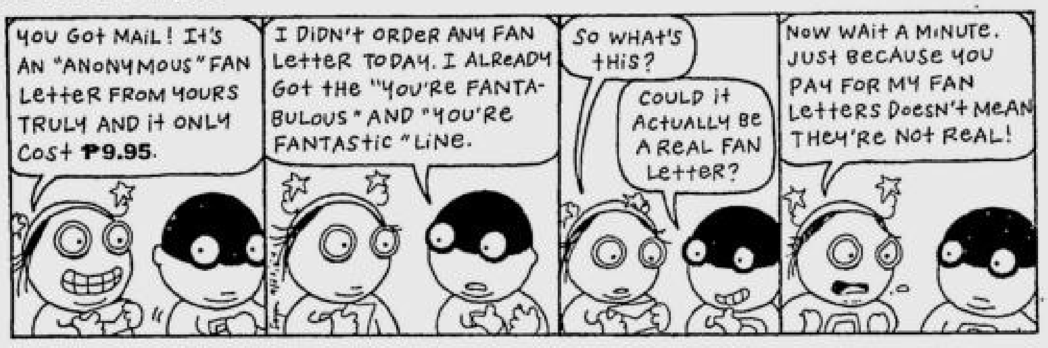
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHY ARE YOU WEARING A BASEBALL CAP?
IT'S SOMETHING ALL OF US BALDING GUYS DO
WITH A HAT, NOBODY KNOWS WE DON'T HAVE ANY HAIR
9-22
UNLESS IT BLOWS OFF
CAN'T. I SUPER-GLUED IT ON!
ARMSTRONG

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


IF I ASK FOR MY OWN BULLDOZER, AND IT COMES TRUE, CAN I KEEP IT IN THE GARAGE?
WOULD YOU JUST HURRY UP AND MAKE A WISH??

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


You Got MAIL! It's AN "ANONYMOUS" FAN Letter FROM YOURS TRULY AND it ONLY Cost ₱9.95.
I DIDN't ORDER ANY FAN Letter TODAY. I ALReADY Got the "You're FANTABULOUS" AND "You're FANTAStic" LiNe.
So WHAt's tHiS?
COULD it ActuALLY Be A ReAL FAN Letter?
Now WAit A MiNUTe. JUSt BeCAUSe YOU PAY FOR MY FAN Letters Doesn't MeAN THey're Not ReAL!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have strong, focused, disciplined energy. Because of this, you achieve much. You multitask and do several projects at once. You're outgoing and extroverted, as well as solitary and introverted. You have a dry sense of humor. You influence others around you, whether you know it or not. This year is full of exciting, fresh beginnings!
Birthdate of: Bonnie Hunt, actress; Junko Tabei, mountain-climber; Scott Baio, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Oops. Power struggles at work are nasty today! Somebody wants to tell you what to do, and you're not impressed with the idea.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Power struggles with children are likely today. Your sign makes the best parents. Don't get down on a childish level with your kids. Instead, elevate them by respecting their points of view.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Disagreements with partners and close friends are likely today. They could center on family or domestic matters. Don't try to run somebody else's life.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your mind is penetrating and decisive today. It slices through everything like a hot knife through butter. If you have to persuade someone to do something, you'll do it!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might use your money or your resources to restore, recover, refinish or improve something. You want to make things work or appear better.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're obsessed with an idea today. It's all you can think about. It's like having the song "I Shot the Sheriff" going around and around in your head.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today, you discover ways to change your life for the better. You can get in touch with sides of yourself that you normally don't acknowledge.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't coerce others into agreeing with you today, even if you're convinced that you're right. After all, you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him float.

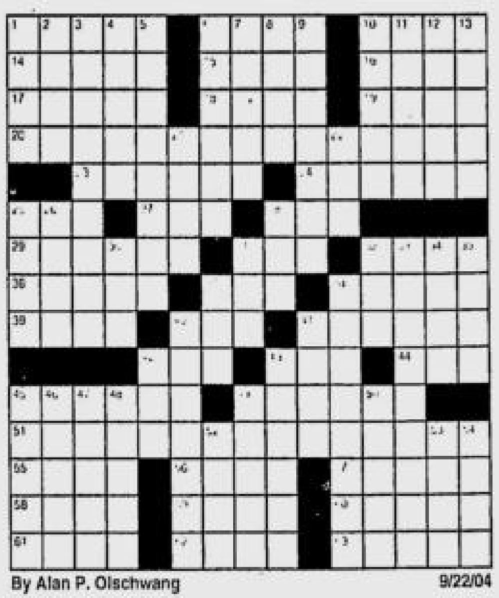
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It might seem very important today to call attention to something, especially to your boss or someone in authority. Be careful not to provoke arguments.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You have a strong desire to make others see your point of view. You want them to believe as you do. Remember: We are not all alike. Some people like rice; others prefer potatoes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your ability to research and dig deep for hidden answers is excellent today. Look for bookkeeping solutions for answers related to wills, insurance and red-tape matters.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're determined to discover a secret of some sort. You want to know what goes on under the surface of things. (You're also interested in hidden studies and mysterious subjects today.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
9/22/04

ACROSS
1 One with an IRA
6 List-ending abbr.
10 Woe is me!
14 An Astaire
15 Radames' love
16 Lion's hairdo
17 Gold measure
18 Emulate a beaver
19 __ go braghl
20 Start of Paul McCartney quote
23 Eagle quarters
24 Make beloved
25 Single grain
27 Body shop's $ quote
28 Refrain starter
29 Part 2 of quote
31 Vegas opening?
32 Speculative
36 Frasier Crane's brother
37 Illuminated
38 Old-time peep show
39 Iditarod ride
40 Cylindrical hat
41 Part 3 of quote
42 Contend
43 Actress Novak
44 Star Wars letters
45 Beset
49 Add to the beauty of
51 End of quote
55 Scheme
56 Fleetwood Mac hit
57 Louise and Turner
58 Baked dessert
59 Frosted
60 Prayer enders
61 God of war
62 New Jersey NBA team
63 Shell

DOWN
1 H.H. Munro's pen name
2 Actor West
3 All-purpose
4 Lift the spirits of
5 AARP members
6 Aerie youngster
7 Color shades
8 Hebrew month
9 Members of the bar
10 Make revisions
11 Extensive
12 Ekberg or Baker
13 Mexicali mister
21 Kudrow of "Friends"
22 Balin or Claire
25 Has title to
26 Seed cover
28 Make lace
30 Danson or Koppel
31 Claiborne or Smith
32 End of man?
33 Perked up
34 __ off (keep at bay)
35 Abominable snowman
37 Peggy or Pinky
38 Forgiveness
40 Subs
41 Malicious gossip
42 Caesar's seven
43 Works dough
45 Kindness to creatures org
46 Power option
47 Plumber's device
48 "__ of God"
49 White heron
50 Sound like a bell
52 Intertwine
53 Called
54 Latin being

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

R	E	E	D	■	I	N	D	O	■	R	E	G	A	L
E	X	P	O	■	N	E	M	O	■	E	L	I	D	E
P	E	A	C	H	F	U	Z	Z	■	D	E	V	O	N
■	■	■	T	I	E	R	■	E	A	R	N	E	S	T
T	E	A	R	D	R	O	P	■	S	E	A	M	■	■
O	L	L	I	E	S	■	E	P	P	S	■	E	S	E
K	I	L	N	S	■	C	L	E	F	S	■	A	E	R
E	T	T	E	■	B	R	I	A	N	■	T	B	A	R
N	E	H	■	W	R	I	S	T	■	A	R	U	B	A
S	S	A	■	T	A	N	S	■	B	R	A	Z	E	N
■	■	T	A	N	G	■	L	I	O	N	I	Z	E	D
A	D	J	U	D	G	E	■	A	T	E	N	■	■	■
G	O	A	D	S	■	R	O	Y	A	L	F	I	Z	Z
A	N	Z	I	O	■	N	O	O	K	■	U	K	E	S
R	A	Z	O	R	■	S	O	N	Y	■	L	E	D	A

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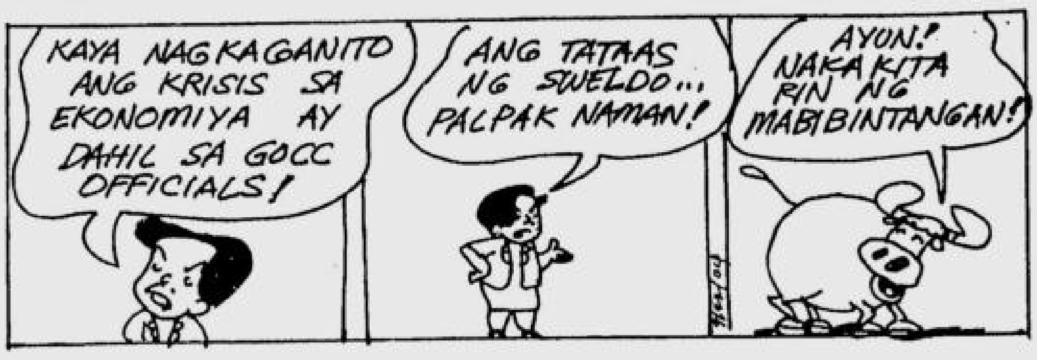
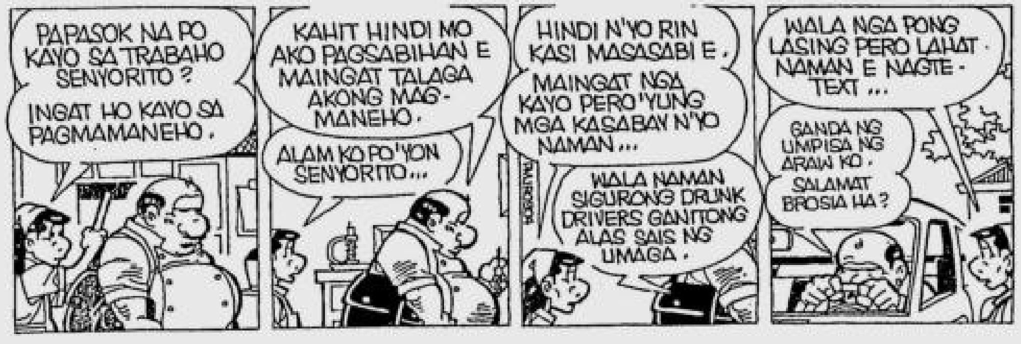
9/22/04

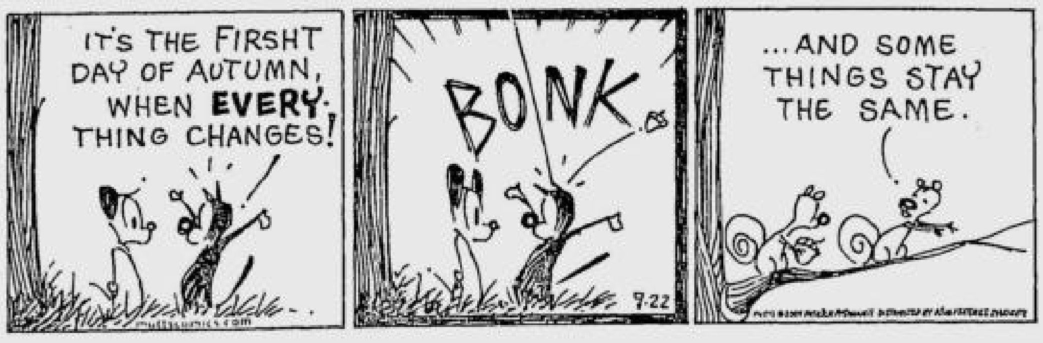
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


KAYA NAGKAGANITO ANG KRISIS SA EKONOMIYA AY DAHIL SA GOCC OFFICIALS!
ANG TATAAS NG SWELDO..., PALPAK NAMAN!
AYON! NAKAKITA RIN NG MABIBINTANGAN!

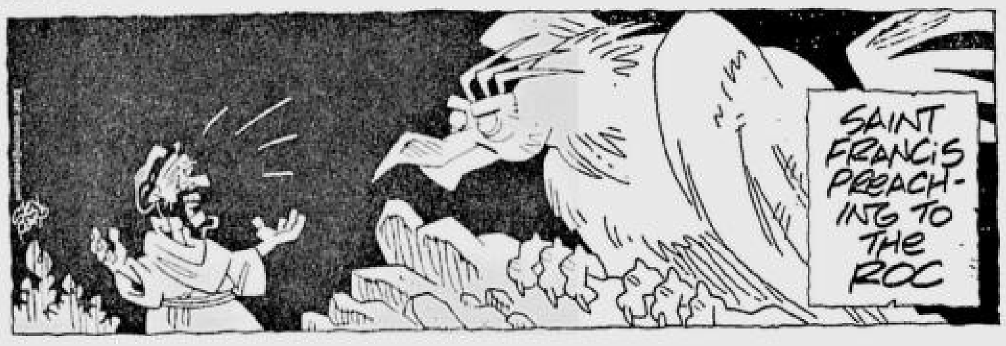
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAPASOK NA PO KAYO SA TRABAHO SENYORITO?
INGAT HO KAYO SA PAGMAMANEHO.
KAHIT HINDI MO AKO PAGSABIHAN E MAINGAT TALAGA AKONG MAGMANEHO.
ALAM KO PO 'YON SENYORITO...
HINDI N'YO RIN KASI MASASABI E.
MAINGAT NGA KAYO PERO 'YUNG MGA KASABAY N'YO NAMAN...
WALA NAMAN SIGURONG DRUNK DRIVERS GANITONG ALAS SAIS NG UMAGA.
WALA NGA PONG LASING PERO LAHAT NAMAN E NAGTE-TEXT...
GANDA NG UMPISA NG ARAW KO. SALAMAT BROSIA HA?

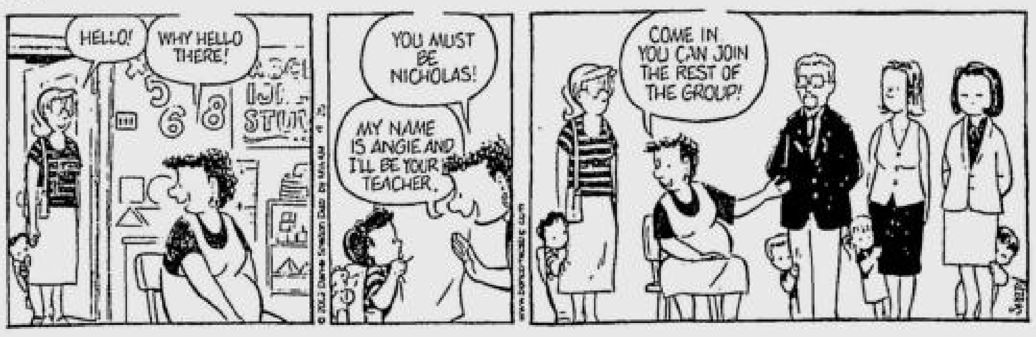
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


IT'S THE FIRSHT DAY OF AUTUMN, WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGES!
BONK
9-22
...AND SOME THINGS STAY THE SAME.
muttscomics.com

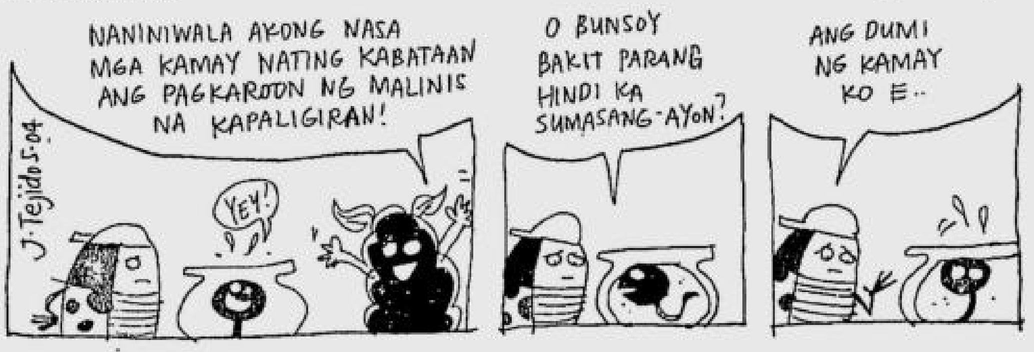
DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SAINT FRANCIS PREACHING TO THE ROC

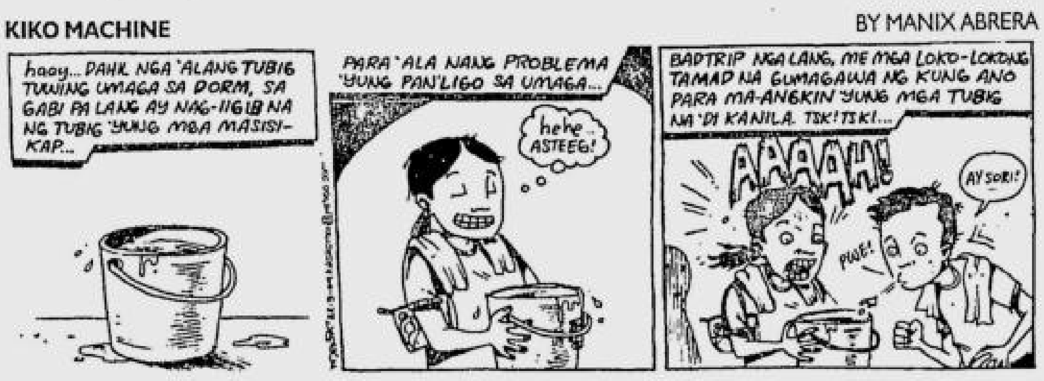
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


HELLO!
WHY HELLO THERE!
YOU MUST BE NICHOLAS!
MY NAME IS ANGIE AND I'LL BE YOUR TEACHER.
COME IN. YOU CAN JOIN THE REST OF THE GROUP!

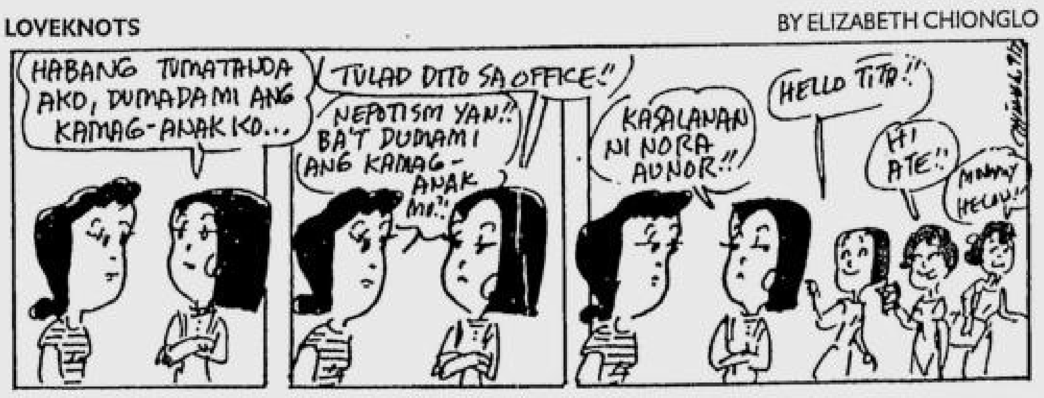
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NANINIWALA AKONG NASA MGA KAMAY NATING KABATAAN ANG PAGKAROON NG MALINIS NA KAPALIGIRAN!
J. Tejido 5-04
YEY!
O BUNSOY BAKIT PARANG HINDI KA SUMASANG-AYON?
ANG DUMI NG KAMAY KO E..

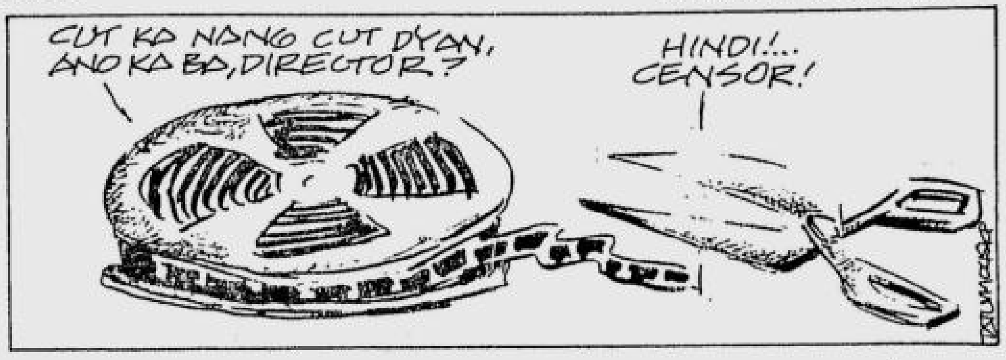
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


haay... DAHIL NGA 'ALANG TUBIG TUWING UMAGA SA DORM, SA GABI PA LANG AY NAG-IIGIB NA NG TUBIG 'YUNG MGA MASISIKAP...
PARA 'ALA NANG PROBLEMA 'YUNG PAN'LIGO SA UMAGA...
hehe.. ASTEEG!
BADTRIP NGA LANG, ME MGA LOKO-LOKONG TAMAD NA GUMAGAWA NG KUNG ANO PARA MA-ANGKIN 'YUNG MGA TUBIG NA 'DI KANILA. TSK! TSK! ...
AAAAH!
AY SORI!
PWE!

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HABANG TUMATANDA AKO, DUMADAMI ANG KAMAG-ANAK KO...
TULAD DITO SA OFFICE!!
NEPOTISM YAN!! BA'T DUMAMI ANG KAMAG-ANAK MO!!
KASALANAN NI NORA AUNOR!!
HELLO TITA!!
HI ATE!!
MOMMY HELLO!!

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


CUT KA NANG CUT DYAN, ANO KA BA, DIRECTOR?
HINDI!... CENSOR!

Mascaras for fuller lashes

ADVANCE
ADVANCE

ADVANCE Flexicoat Mascara and Advance Lengthening Mascara

EVER Bilena introduces two new mascaras to liven up those eyelashes.

Advance Flexicoat Technology and Advance Lengthening Mascara curls lengthen and thicken your lashes.

The Advance Flexicoat Technology is a waterproof mascara with the unique "flexicoat" formulation to thicken and lengthen the lashes for over eight hours, without worrying about smudges.

Jojoba oil in the mascara conditions and makes lashes radiant.

The Advance Lengthening Mascara stretches the lashes to the fullest and will not wear off for at least eight hours.

Both mascaras can be easily wiped off with any oil-based makeup remover.

The Advance Flexicoat Technology (P185) and Advance Lengthening Mascara (P165) are available in leading department stores nationwide.

Fashionista finalists bared

WILD Vines fruit-flavored wines announces the finalists for the Fashionista 2K4 design competition, to be held Sept. 23 at the Cultural Hall, Petron Megaplaza Building, Makati.

Students of the country's top schools and universities will showcase designs inspired by '60s fashion and the spirit of Wild Vines wines.

Alodoa Cecilia Sales (Golden Hands Fashion and Arts School or GHFAS), Margarita Isabel Cordova (Far Eastern University), Irene Sia and Gladimir Echaverra (both from De la Salle University-College of St. Benilde) worked on the romantic hues of Wild Vines Strawberry White Zinfandel.

Wild Vines Peach Chardonnay inspired the designs of Patrick John Cruz (University of Sto. Tomas), Jose Losa (UST), Michelle Dy (La Salle College International or LSCI) and Floresca Vic Josmar (DLSU-CSB).

Interpreting Wild Vines Raspberry Zinfandel are John Rafael Tolentino (GHFAS), Joey Santiago (University of the East), Norman Cabos (UE) and John Herrera (Fashion Institute of the Phils.).

Designers for Blackberry Merlot are Magda Catherine Tuazon (LSCI), Sally Ocampochua (GHFAS), Ann Therese Gacutan (University of the Philippines) and William Barja (Cora Doloroso Career Center).

The grand champion will receive a trophy, cash prize and an exclusive apprenticeship with couturier Renee Salud.

Wild Vines, a product of E&J Gallo, is exclusively distributed by The Andresons Group.

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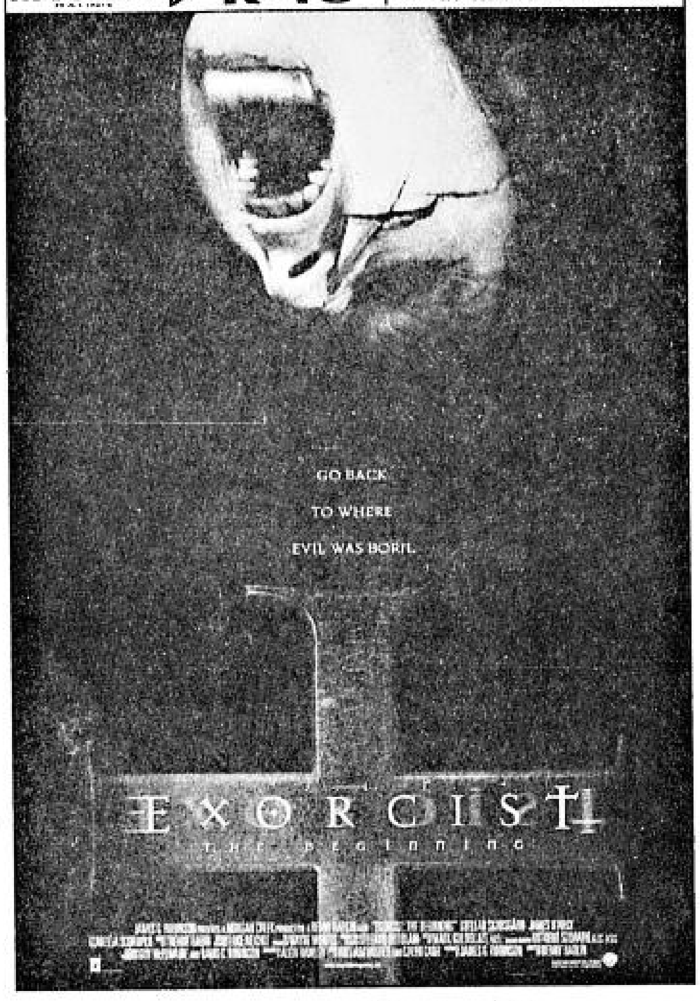

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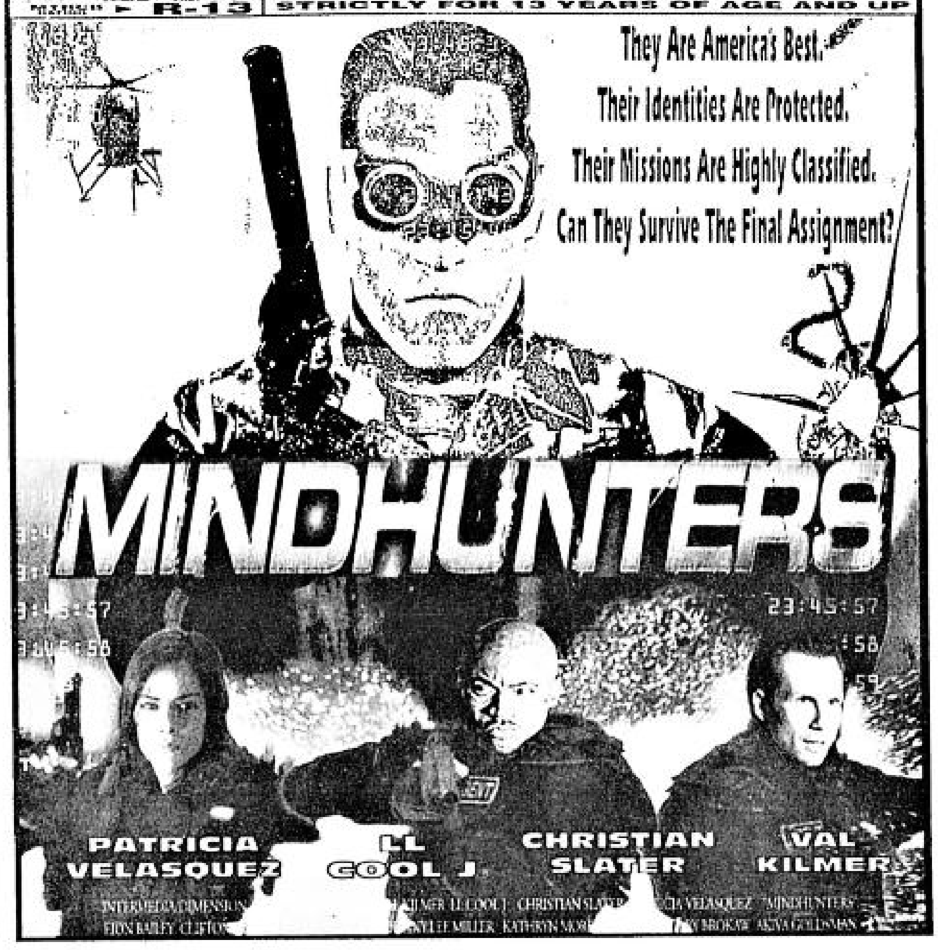
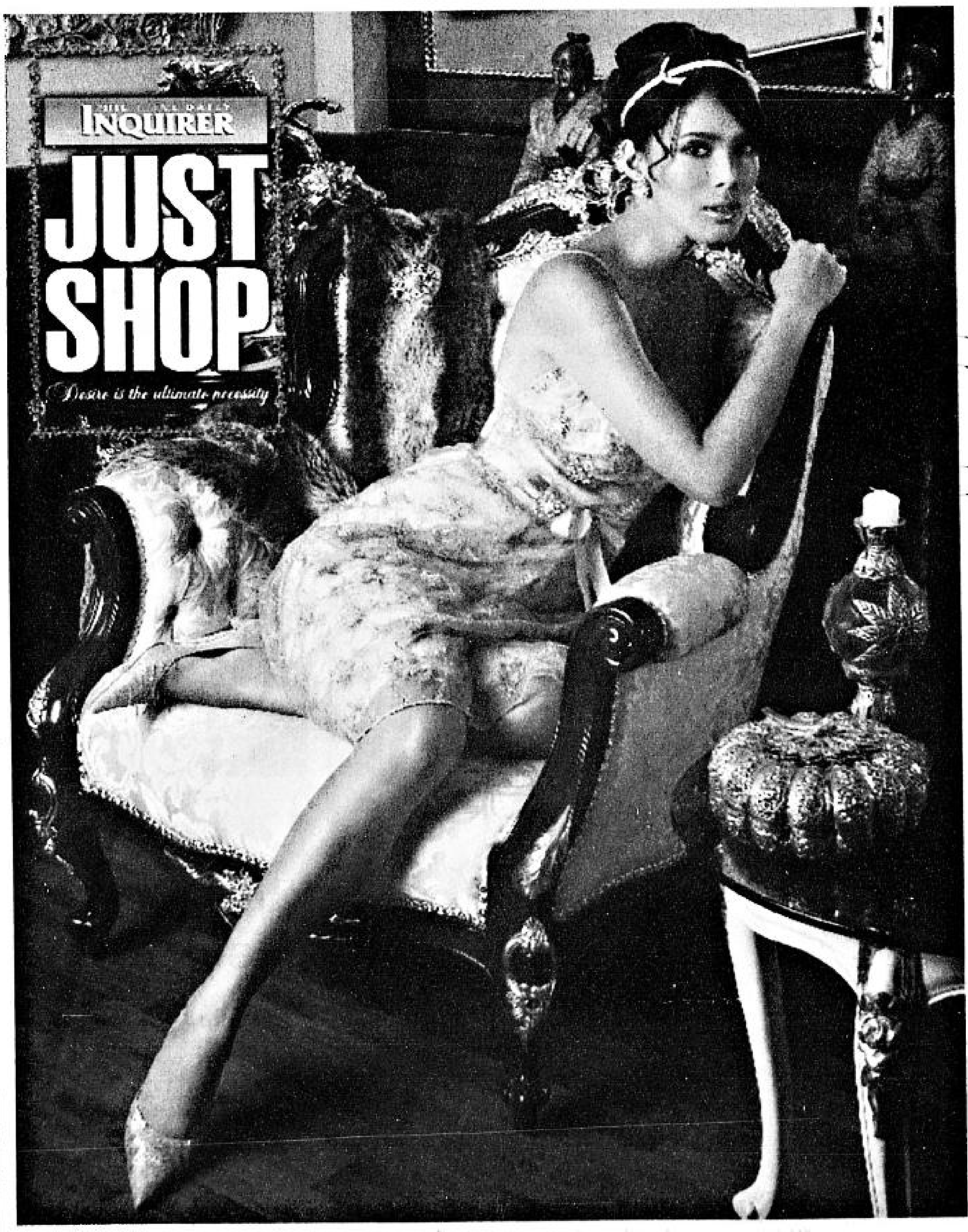

They Are America's Best.
Their Identities Are Protected.
Their Missions Are Highly Classified.
Can They Survive The Final Assignment?
MINDHUNTERS
23:45:57
PATRICIA VELASQUEZ
LL COOL J
CHRISTIAN SLATER
VAL KILMER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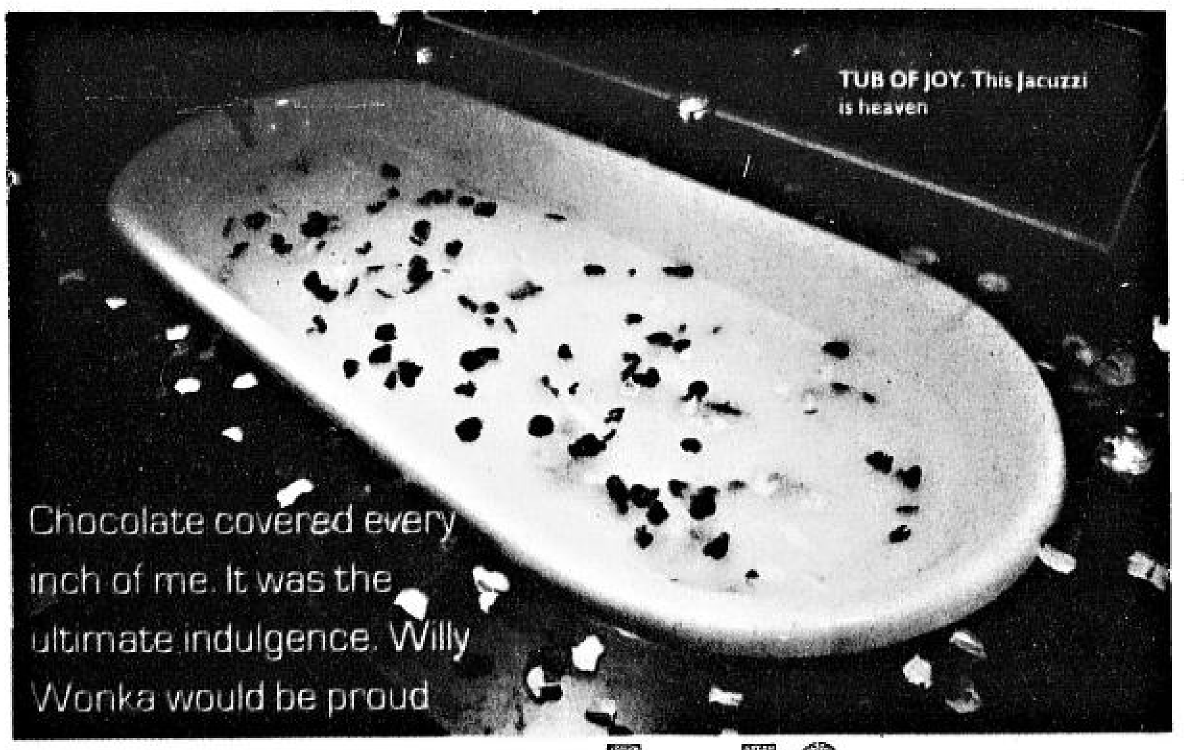

TUB OF JOY. This Jacuzzi is heaven

Chocolate covered every inch of me. It was the ultimate indulgence. Willy Wonka would be proud

Chocolate bliss, Jacuzzi ecstasy

By Pam Pastor

I LAUGHED with the gods of irony when I realized that my Chocolate Lovers Body Scrub treatment at the Pinnacle Healthpointe was scheduled on the third day of yet another failed attempt at Atkins.

What the heck, I figured. I was depriving my taste buds of sugar. I might as well let my skin have it.

My spa attendant, a quiet lady named Myla, led me to Pinnacle's Java room. One step was all it took for me to know that I had just entered paradise. The room had everything I could need—my own toilet, a shower stall and a Jacuzzi. Myla handed me a change of clothes: a mocha top, shorts and disposable panties. Soon, I was lying on my stomach on the massage table, which had been laden with banana leaves.

Myla began slathering a walnut and olive oil mixture on my body, rubbing my skin gently. "The walnut will help exfoliate your skin, removing dead skin cells while the olive oil moisturizes," she said. Myla has magic hands. I entered that room bogged down with so many thoughts about so many things but I could feel them flying away as I enjoyed her firm but gentle kneading.

After wiping off the walnut and oil mixture, Myla helped me lie on my back so she could work on my other side.

There was a large panel of the glass on one side of the room, offering a view of a single lush plant. When my eyes weren't closed, I kept my eyes on that serene scene. It helped me relax even more. Instrumental music played softly in the room, adding to the experience.

Soon, it was time for my chocolate pleasure.

Myla brought the bowl of chocolate mixture close to my nose. I inhaled deeply, breathing in its sweet richness. I found out later that Pinnacle uses pure Hershey's chocolate for their mixture.

I tried to resist the urge to lick my arm as Myla massaged the chocolate onto my body. She was very thorough. When she was done, chocolate covered every inch of me—even my armpits, my chest and my unmentionables. It was the ultimate indulgence. Willy Wonka would be proud.

Chocolate goodness

Myla wrapped my body so it could absorb the goodness of the chocolate mixture. The banana leaves aid in the absorption process. According to her, chocolate is a natural antioxidant. Its Natural Hydroxyl Acid content is beneficial for the skin and helps fight the aging process. Chocolate is also an effective natural relaxant, thanks to serotonin.

"The wrap will last for 15 minutes. While we're waiting, I will massage your face," Myla said. The treat was far from over.

During every spa trip, one reaches the point of surrender—that point when you let go of everything, when you finally let all worries of the outside world stay outside while you succumb to the pleasure of your treatment. I reached this state as Myla massaged my face with chocolate. Thanks to the soft music, the rich smell of chocolate and the massage, I found myself in a sleepy haze.

I couldn't be too sure now, it could have been my dreamy state, but for a time, the soft music was replaced with the sounds of waves crashing and birds chirping. In my chocolate-induced haze, I heard a strange distant sound. It took a while before I realized that my phone had been ringing. No, I didn't pick up. I was still too deep in my enjoyment.

From now on, in my head, Myla will always be the queen of multi-tasking.

Because my eyes were closed as she massaged my face, I had no idea she had drawn a bath for me in the Jacuzzi—bubbles, rose petals, rosemary oil and all. I never even felt her hands leave my face!

Myle unwrapped me and proceeded to wipe the chocolate off my body. She asked, "Would you like to steam while you shower?"

I nodded. She turned on the steam and made sure the temperature was just right before I stepped in. Myla left the room, leaving me to wash the rest of the chocolate off in the shower.

CHOCOLATE DREAMS. Get ready for two hours of pleasure.

PHOTOS: ROMY HOMILLADA

Bubbles and rose petals

When I was done, Myla returned to the room and directed me towards the Jacuzzi. I let myself sink into the whirling pool of bubbles and rose petals. The soft scent of rosemary lingered in the air.

She placed a tall glass of cold pink fruit juice on the side of the tub before leaving the room again, allowing me to enjoy my drink with the Jacuzzi.

My version of heaven used to be sitting on Boracay sand while sipping a banana-mango shake. But that moment might have been replaced by my Jacuzzi experience.

Reluctantly, I left the Jacuzzi and showered the bubbles off. I left the shower, toweled myself dry and got ready to put on my clothes again. But the treat still wasn't over.

Myla asked me to lie on the bed again, so she could massage me with lotion, the final step in my delightful treatment.

The entire process was so long and pleasurable that the treatment's price seemed surprisingly low.

When I was dressed in my own clothes again, Myla took me for a tour around the spa. She showed me the common rooms, the other special rooms and the couple rooms. Each special room had a different theme, ensuring a brand new experience for spa visitors.

She told me about their other treatments. Aside from aromatherapy, Swedish, sports massages and Dermalogica face treatments, they also offer a variety of other services to spoil and pamper your body: the Salt Glow Scrub (their most popular treatment—an exfoliating treatment using unprocessed sea salts and aromatic essential oil), Invigorating Body Scrub (which utilizes barako coffee beans mixed with rice), Javanese Lulur (a Javanese royalty-inspired body treatment that was originally used as a prenuptial pampering and cleansing treatment), Nourishing Body Wrap (a mixture of oatmeal, honey and milk), Cucumber Body Wrap (this is ideal for sun-damaged skin), Ginger Body Wrap (a heat-activated treatment for tired, sore muscles), Seaweed Body Wrap (ideal treatment for acne and can also reduce cellulite), Wattles Body Wrap (light green masque, sandalwood, eucalyptus and rosehip oil), Thai Fruit Body Masque (a blend of papaya, pineapple and a splash of honey). I promised to try them all.

That afternoon, I stepped out of the spa renewed and invigorated. The treatment was Prozac for the senses. Those were two hours of sheer bliss. I had been pampered and spoiled and now I'm ready to face the world again.

Pinaccle Healthpointe is at the 2/L of the One Luna Lifestyle Center, Felina Parkplace Eastwood City, Libis, QC. Call 4381880, 6333472 and 4385321 or visit www.pinnaclehealthpointe.com.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

ROYAL TREATMENT. These petals lead to paradise.

We want to pamper you

DO you want to be pampered and spoiled by Pinnacle Healthpointe's able spa attendants? Do you want to be massaged with chocolate before enjoying a dip in a Jacuzzi sprinkled with rose petals? 2bU! and Pinnacle Healthpointe are giving three lucky readers the chance to feel like a queen for a day with this special two-hour treatment. Just tell us why you think you deserve this treat. Send us photos, get creative. E-mail us at contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to add your name, age, address, school/office and contact numbers.

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